FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 064 *3 April 1985*

ARGENTINA

Senator Evaluates Meeting With UK Legislators B 1
Interior Minister Sees 'Acute Internal Crisis' B 1
Briefs: Government Workers Salary Increase B 1

BOLIVIA

Siles Disputes Hawkins Remarks on Anti-Drug Fight C 1
Electoral Court To Study Election Postponement C 1

BRAZIL

President Neves Undergoes Fourth Operation D 1
Hernia Corrected D 1
Ministers Go to Clinic D 1
Neves Recovering From Surgery D 2
Brasilia Normal Despite Neves' Operation D 2
Brasilsat Begins Transmissions on 1 April D 3

CHILE

President Pinochet Appoints New OAS Ambassador E 1
Court-Martial Procedures Canceled in Urzua Case E 1
Police Arrest Two Men After Bomb Attacks E 1

PARAGUAY

Stroessner Gives State of Nation Address H 1

PERU

Army Installs Soviet Antiaircraft Missiles J 1
Chilean Air Force Plane Reportedly Detained J 1
Terrorist Commandos Steal Guns From Two Shops J 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Betancur on Contadora Role in Regional Conflict P 1

EL SALVADOR

Official Vote Delayed; Procedures Under Review P 2
Election Official Supports PDC Victory Claim P 2
Coalition Requests Nullification of Elections P 2
CCE President Comments P 3
Clashes Near Border Continue, Hondurans on Alert P 4

HONDURAS

Reportage on Congress-President Conflict P 5
Bar Association Communique P 5
Court Finds Deputies Guilty P 6
Bu Giron Defends Position P 8
Foreign Secretary Press Conference P 9
Bu Giron Remark Denied P 23
Congress Blames Presidency P 23
Bu Giron Willing To Meet Suazo P 24

NICARAGUA

PLI Leaders Says Statutes Give Ortega More Power P 25
[LA PRENSA 22 Mar]
UNAG Leader Claims Contras Murdering Farmers P 26
[BARRICADA 27 Mar]

CUBA

Castro Greets Lao Counterpart Kaysone Phomvihan [Vientiane] Q 1
Castro Receives Argentine, Congolese Groups Q 1
Meets Argentine Communists Q 1
Meeting With Congolese Delegation Q 1
Vilma Espin Calls for Broad Front for Peace Q 1
Meets FMC Members in Moscow Q 2
Hart Meets Leaders During Hungarian Congress Q 2
Meeting With USSR's Romanov Q 2
Meets Nicaragua's Nunez Q 2
Dam Project Under Construction in Nicaragua Q 2
Vietnam's Nguyen Huu Tho Meets Flavio Bravo Q 3
Official Talks Begin Q 3
Information Agreement Signed With Vietnam Q 3

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA

Blaize on U.S. Caribbean Troop Withdrawals S 1
Blaize Says Multi-Nation Army Plan Shelved S 1

JAMAICA

Lay Offs, Job Cuts Reported in Public Sector S 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

ECUADOR

Government Minister on Strike, Wage Dispute V 1

VENEZUELA

Lusinchi Leaves on 9-Day Visit to U.S. V 1

SENATOR EVALUATES MEETING WITH UK LEGISLATORS

PY022252 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1535 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA) -- Radical Senators Fernando de la Rua and Adolfo Cass today stated that the British Labor Party and at least 15 British Conservative legislators out of a total of 100 "would like to begin negotiations immediately" over the Malvinas conflict. They made this statement upon returning from Bonn, where they attended an international conference with British representatives.

Upon arriving at Ezeiza International Airport from the FRG, where they attended a seminar organized by the FRG Institute of International Studies along with British Conservative Party and Labor Party legislators, De la Rua said that they are going to study an invitation to visit the United Kingdom on a date to be determined.

De la Rua said: "We are insisting on our claim and are presenting it at all international meetings we attend. This time, the FRG provided us with such an opportunity, and we are grateful to that country." He added that the meeting also covered "our relations with the EEC, especially in regard to the Malvinas issue, which has greater political significance."

The Radical senator pointed out that "we reiterated our position of holding negotiations in accordance with UN resolutions, including on the issue of sovereignty." He said that "the British prime minister is maintaining an obstinate and negative position, but there is also a rational attitude among British sectors that advocate negotiations as a civilized attitude."

De la Rua pointed out that "an effort to open any path, any means of pressure to booster negotiations will keep the situation from stagnating. This will also keep our claim strong and alive, because I believe that the time will come in the not too distant future when negotiations will begin and we will achieve our objectives through these negotiations."

INTERIOR MINISTER SEES 'ACUTE INTERNAL CRISIS'

PY022128 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli this morning stated that there is a very acute internal crisis. As a result, in 1985 we are much poorer than we were 10 years ago. Troccoli added that our concern now should be to provide impetus to a development process that promotes the modernization of the Argentine economy so we are able to fully utilize the nation's potential. Troccoli stated that the country now has that potential, that is, the human and natural resources.

The minister continued by saying that if we Argentines face the crisis and become aware of the need for an orderly and systematic effort by all of us, then we will be able to draw up a development policy. He then stated that the social-economic cooperation talks are the result of a political agreement, which is the appropriate framework for such a function. He said that there can be no republic unless there is national unity.

Troccoli ended by saying that if Argentina disintegrates or becomes fragmented, we would have missed this opportunity and we will enter a state in which the country will move backward and further deteriorate.

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT WORKERS SALARY INCREASE -- The executive branch has decided to readjust the salary of all government employees who are not included in collective bargaining contracts by 90 percent of the February inflation rate, plus a 6-percent real salary increase, effective 1 March. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 85 PY]

SILES DISPUTES HAWKINS REMARKS ON ANTI-DRUG FIGHT

PY030159 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] Journalists accredited to Government House were surprised today when President Siles met with them, as he rarely does so. He told them that the Bolivian Government is diligently struggling against drug trafficking.

In answer to a recent statement made by U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins, the president said that the operations against drug trafficking are continuing:

[Begin recording] An operation has been carried out in which 1,260 kg of cocaine have been confiscated. In addition, the authorities have also confiscated some vehicles. They also penetrated some ranches that belong to drug traffickers.

I wanted to personally inform you of this since it is of interest to everyone and it shows that the government is diligently struggling against drug trafficking. Moreover, this comes precisely at a time when the press has carried a statement by U.S. Senator Hawkins, who did not act in keeping with her responsibilities as a senator of the most powerful nation on earth and who dared to say that we are virtually involved in drug trafficking. [end recording]

The president's statement has the nature of an official Bolivian statement in view of the slanderous remarks the U.S. senator made.

[Begin recording] I reassert, this is an official Bolivian Government statement that I believe you and the entire Bolivian population should know about. [end recording]

Therefore, we have learned that there has been a successful operation against drug trafficking in which an important amount of drugs were confiscated. This news comes precisely at the time when a U.S. senator has issued groundless information and insulted our country and the Bolivian authorities.

ELECTORAL COURT TO STUDY ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

PY030211 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The spokesman of the National Electoral Court, (Roque Pando), has informed Cadena Panamericana that the Electoral Court will hold a meeting to study the proposal submitted by Jaime Daniel Ortiz, chairman of the La Paz Department Electoral Court, to postpone the municipal elections until 15 December 1985.

(Pando) admitted that the arguments raised by the La Paz Electoral Court in requesting the postponement are justified.

PRESIDENT NEVES UNDERGOES FOURTH OPERATION

Hernia Corrected

PY022351 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2250 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Medical bulletin read by Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito on President Tancredo Neves' post-operative condition at the Heart Institute of the Sao Paulo University Clinical Hospital -- live]

[Text] The result of this afternoon's operation on His Excellency President Tancredo Neves is stated in this bulletin, which I will now read:

The medical team treating His Excellency President Tancredo Neves, headed by Professor Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti, releases the following information:

1. This afteroon, the president submitted to a surgical procedure to correct an inguinal hernia located on the left side of the abdomen.

2. The surgical procedure was performed by Professor Surgeon Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti, assisted by Professor Dr Joao Baptista Rezende Alves and Doctors Angelita Gama and [name indistinct].

3. The operation was performed through a 10-centimeter incision in the left inguinal region. In the region of the hernia, a small amount of exudative material was found and the trapped intestinal loop that caused the problem was intact. Therefore, the operation was limited to correcting the hernia.

4. The patient was administered epidural anesthesia by Professor Rui (Denidio) do Amaral. This type of anesthesia allowed the president to remain conscious and awake during the entire operation.

5. The president was able to breathe spontaneously during the operation, and his cardiovascular and renal functions remained normal.

6. The president is at this time back in the intensive care unit. He is doing well and speaking with his relatives.

Sao Paulo, 2 April at 1945

The bulletin is signed by Professor Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti and Professor Dr Joao Baptista Rezende Alves.

This is the information the doctors have asked me to pass on to you, gentlemen. And I once again stress that the president is at this time in the intensive care unit, doing well, speaking with his relatives and, of course, being cared for by the doctors who performed the operation. Thank you very much.

Ministers Go to Clinic

PY030356 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0250 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Report from the Heart Institute of the Sao Paulo University Clinical Hospital -- live]

[Text] Many people have come to the Heart Insitute today to get firsthand information on President Tancredo Neves' condition after his fourth operation. As of 2000, several ministers had visited the institute: Transport Minister Affonso Camargo, who said that he came frightened but that he was leaving tranquil with the information he received from the doctors and members of the Neves family; Urban and Environment Minister Flavio Peixoto, who upon leaving the hospital said he had observed a reassuring atmosphere among the relatives of Tancredo Neves.

When he arrived at the institute at about 2000, National Intelligence Service chief General Ivan de Souza Mendes responded to three questions from journalists: The first was: Is the government concerned over Tancredo Neves' health at this time? His answer was: It is the concern of all Brazilians. Second: Is the President's life in danger? His answer was: We can assess that it is. Third: What information prompted your coming to Sao Paulo? His answer: The information that the president would again be operated on.

Also about 2000, Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves showed up here. He said that we all are praying so that everything turns out well.

Others who have been here include: Education Minister Marcos Macile, Debureaucratization Minister Paulo Lustosa, other ministers, Major Mario Covas, Governor Franco Montoro, and Vice Governor Orestes Quercia.

We can also report that the President is being fed intravenously, and that it is not yet known when he will be returned to oral feeding. The effects of the anesthesia should wear off by midnight, and probably then the president will feel some pain in the area of the operation. In that case, he will be given an injection of analgesic, and no other measure should be adopted until tomorrow morning.

The principals of the presidential medical team left the Heart Institute around 2100.

Neves Recovering From Surgery

PY030330 Paris AFP in Spanish 0319 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] Sao Paulo, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Presidential spokesman Antonio Brito tonight reported that Brazilian President Tancredo Neves' health is satisfactory. Neves today underwent an operation to remove an inguinal hernia.

In remarks to the press, Brito added that the doctors reported tonight that the president is doing very well 5 hours after the operation. He added that the president's sister, a nun, and his wife are with him. This was his fourth operation in 19 days. The first three were to solve other intestinal problems.

BRASILIA NORMAL DESPITE NEVES' OPERATION

PY030342 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0230 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Excerpt] In addition to Neves' health, the government of the new Republic is also concerned about the new [word indistinct] strikes that started in the federal district and [word indistinct].

[Begin report from Brasilia] The administration was again tense and concerned today over Neves' fourth operation. Acting President Jose Sarney was informed about the operation at the beginning of the afternoon by Neves' son, Tancredo Augusto Neves.

Immediately after being informed, Jose Sarney met at the Planalto Palace with the civilian household minister, the chief of the military cabinet, the head of the civilian cabinet, and the National Intelligence Service [SNI] chief.

The acting president decided to remain in Brasilia, but he sent the SNI chief, General Ivan de Souza Mendes to Sao Paulo, to learn the news about Neves' health firsthand.

(?According) to press adviser (Cesar Mesquita), Sarney has stated that although the country is [passage indistinct].

Acting President Sarney carried out his normal activities at the Planalto Government House, holding over 20 meetings during the day.

The presidency has reported that government activities are normal.

BRASILSAT BEGINS TRANSMISSIONS ON 1 APRIL

PY020355 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] The Brasilsat satellite has started transmitting television signals. Elvesio Gilson, president of the Brazilian Telecommunications Company [Embratel], has said that telecommunications in the country are changing:

[Begin recording] Today, Brazil won its independence in telecommunications. We are no longer dependent on the Intelsat satellites. There are no more long distances or geographic barriers. All points of the country can be linked by telecommunications.

Telephone communications to Manaus will be made via Brasilsat as of 18 April. All antennas will be operating with the Brasilsat for telephone, telex, television, and data transmission by mid-May. [end recording]

According to Gilson, as of today the signals of the Bandeirantes and Globo television networks are being transmitted via the Brasilsat as well as the Intelsat. As of 31 May, the Brasilsat will be the only one to transmit the singals of the two television networks.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET APPOINTS NEW OAS AMBASSADOR

PY262035 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Chilean Government has appointed Leonidas Irarrazaval Barros the new Chilean ambassador to the OAS. He is replacing Monica Madariaga, who resigned last February. This information was provided by Marcelo Padilla, the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

[Begin recording] The president today appointed Leonidas Irarrazaval Barros as the new permanent Chilean representative to the OAS. Irarrazaval is a career diplomat who has headed the Chilean missions in France, Ecuador, and Norway. [end recording]

COURT-MARTIAL PROCEDURES CANCELED IN URZUA CASE

PY291158 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Alfonso Insunza, a defense lawyer in the Urzua case, has reported that Santiago military judge Samuel Rojas has accepted a petition submittted by the defense a week ago. Judge Rojas has agreed to send a note to the commander of the 2d Army asking that he disqualify him from the court-martial procedures of the defendants in the Urzua case.

Insunza announced the decision adopted this afternoon by the military judge in Santiago:

[Begin recording] The military judge today accepted our petition after studying it for 14 days and, therefore, these 5 persons will stand trial at the second military court in accordance to peacetime regulations. [end recording]

The defendants who benefited from this decision are Jorge Palma Donoso, Carlos Araneda Miranda, and Hugo Marchand Moya, for whom the death sentence has been asked, and Susana Capriles Rojas and Marta Soto Gonzalez, for whom the prosecutor asked 5 years and 1 day of imprisonment.

Former Santiago Intendant Carol Urzua and his two bodyguards were murdered in November 1982.

Insunza also made it clear that this decision also rules out a possible death penalty and that the case should again go back to the inquest stage.

POLICE ARREST TWO MEN AFTER BOMB ATTACKS

PY022124 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] The Investigative Police have arrested two extremists and placed them at the disposal of the judge advocate. These terrorists have carried out several bomb attacks that have damaged street lamp posts in western Santiago and in a district of the Quintal Normal commune. The extremists have been identified as 30-year-old German Arturo Pena Barraza, alias Marcelo or Rolando, who was in charge of the Maipu region, and 33-year-old Hugo Seferino Vilca Vallejos, alias Chico or Pedro, who was in charge of the Quinta Normal region.

According to the official report released by the Investigative Police, Pena Barraza participated in a bomb attack on a neighborhood council on 7 October 1983. He also took an active part in a number of attacks that damaged lamp posts. Vilca Vallejos participated in similar attacks.

The police seized home-made hand grenades, fire starters [inflamadores], primer, and political documents of the Communist Party, among other things. It has also been found that Pena Barraza, in view of his outstanding performance among the communist youth, was sent to Cuba in 1981, where he took an 8-month course on explosives.

STROESSNER GIVES STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

PY020228 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[President Alfredo Stroessner's state of the nation address marking the opening of the 1985 legislative session, from Congress building -- live]

[Excerpts] Honorable members of the national Congress: In compliance with Article 180, Clause 10 of the national Constitution, I have come to account for the 1 April 1984 to 1 April 1985 period of my administration. At this sacred temple of law, we voice words of satisfaction and hope because the honorable task in which we are engaged has yielded spiritual and material results that bring happiness to the nobel and heroic Paraguayan people.

Our policy is to work for the common good. In this way we are fulfilling our duty to the nation, which was rescued from backwardness and anarchy, to assume the role of greatness aspired to by our forefathers and heroes, who bequeathed us a glorious flag that we honor with our unstained patriotism and our unshakable dignity. We exercise power through the popular vote. We have a clear conscience that we have not sown hatred but rather [word indistinct] public, harmony, and fraternity at the service of a supreme cause: Paraguay's well-being. [applause]

The state of law rules in our country. Law prevails, thus making coexistence possible. All the people of the country are protected by just laws. We do not accept freedom without order nor order without freedom. We safeguard human dignity. A society in which the crimes of violating public order and offending and violating good customs go unpunished is not a free society but rather a human conglomerate that is the victim of the fear created by antisocial individuals.

We live in a democracy, but not in the sterile democracy of demagoguery. We do not simply preach what has to be done, but rather do what has to be done and thus successfully achieve democratic objectives. The people feel safe; men and women work with confidence; children and youths grow up in an encouraging social atmosphere; citizens exercise their duties free of all limitations but those established by the law. Our worthy and honorable democracy is marked by the people's vote at periodic, free, and clean elections. As the current situation proves, we have never deceived those who voted for us because they believed in us and our political program. We enjoy peace, progress, freedom, and an economic situation that is growing promisingly, sheltered from soaring inflationary processes and free of the uncertainty of a heavy foreign debt. All this is the result of the peaceful revolution that we have launched with an ideology that is nationalistic, with a deeply human and democratic doctrine of a political entity that has roots in our history, in the very essence of the Paraguayan spirit; that is, the firm, united, and glorious National Republican Association: the Colorado Party. [applause]

This is a political organization that will never yield to foreign designs and that advocates an ideology which was not imposed from abroad but rather built with the same substance of the national spirit. It is a political entity that is about to complete its first 100 years and that began with a very strong democratic spirit. It is a party that with dignity and nobleness, in its manifesto of 11 September 1887, proclaimed that the people's sovereignty is the cornerstone of the Republic.

We have reached the government with the historic flags of the Colorado Party and, since being a member of the Colorado Party means being in favor of the common good and of avoiding sectarianism, in our capacity as members of the Colorado Party We are implementing a policy that benefits all those who inhabit our country without any discrimination or priviledges. The majority rules in a democracy. Therefore, the Colorado Party rules, it rules in order to see that the law is respected, that social justice is carried out, and that human rights are defended. [applause] The slander campaign being carried out by groups that are constantly associated with evil selfish interests that plot against free nations is seeking to damage Paraguay's image abroad and to encourage Marxist intervention in the country. Communism and its followers are weaving the greatest lies about the real situation in our country in order to achieve alliances aimed at destabilizing our country and to intervene in our domestic affairs. But this is a useless effort by false democratic leaders who, while enthusiastically claiming to support freedom, are conspiring with members of regimes that promote terror and crush all rights and all forms of civilized coexistance; regimes that are repudiated by the Christian Western civilization. Those political parties that are legally established are conducting their civic activities without any obstacles. They hold assemblies, conventions, public meetins, and can make propaganda; thus they are effectively exercising their political rights.

However, there are some political groups that do not meet the legal requirements to act as political parties and that are striving to exercise those rights that can only be exercised by those political parties that have been established in keeping with the Constitution and the prevailing laws. These political groups lack any representativty or following. These groups are involved in obvious subversive goals that all honorable citizens categorically condemn and repudiate. The government of the Colorado Party and the Armed Forces will categorically repel any action aimed at undermining the peace and order of the nation. The municipal elections to be held in October 1985 are another proof that Paraguay is enjoying a true democracy. During these elections, people will vote in the manner that has been characteristic of this period: freely and according to their political preference.

Freedom of the press, which is a bastion of democracy, is a reality in Paraguay. In an unprecedented manner, newspapers, weeklies, magazines, radios, television stations, and opposition newspapers can freely express their ideas to the public without any difficulty. The unprecedented number of books that are being published is another sign that there is respect for freedom of expression in Paraguay. But what we do not tolerate is the distortion of freedom of expression to exploit it as a means for purely subversive and totalitarian machinations. There are some members of the media who are exceeding reasonable and tolerable limits. No one can practice politics by promoting reactionary hatred. The Constitution, which was drafted by the four legally recognized parties, in Article 71 categorically states: "The preaching of hatred among Paraguayans, of class struggle, or the apology of crimes or violence will not be allowed."

We shall firmly safeguard our institutional normality, a normality that is reflected in the prevailing harmonious balance of power among the three branches of government and in the prevailing multiparty system. We guarantee and safeguard freedom so that the life and interests of Paraguayan men and society will not be undermined by extremism.

Our democratic order is not merely a beautiful theory but an irrevocable reality. The government is fulfilling its irrevocable commitment of upholding our free institutions. We are defending and shall not be weak in the defense of democracy. There is no tolerance of terrorists, because there can be no tolerance of assassins, of those how want to push the country off the cliff of crime.

In keeping with the people's will in 1954, we have undertaken a period of restoration of our democratic and human values. This is why we are living in peace, coexistance, and development, which is a brilliant example of morale for the Paraguayan youth. Honorable members of Congress, the Republic of Paraguay practices a clear, firm, and coherent foreign policy that is loyal to the postulates and traditions of the free world.

Within the framework of the United Nations, the OAS, and all the international organizations to which we belong, Paraguay speaks a language of peace, goodwill and faith in cooperation among countries that share common ideals. We also uphold the principles of the legal equality of nations, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of others, and the self-determination of nations. We unwaveringly uphold the cause of peace at both the national and international levels. In regional and international events, we have shown a conduct that is invariably within the framework of the Christian Western civilization and of democratic principles. We call all thing by their name. We categorically repudiate international communism, which is responsible for brutal aggressions against the dignity of man, which promotes serious tensions and conflicts, and which is a constant threat to the spiritual life of humanity.

We categorically repudiate international terrorism in all international forums, and we demand prompt and proper measures against this scourge that is affecting our nations. Moreover, our argument is supported by actions that have never shown any weakness or suspicious condescension in the struggle against extremists. We are a nation that is characterized by its peaceful traditions, and are therefore enemies of those who want to destroy nations through barbarity and slavery. The present situation in Central America is an issue that is of deep concern to the nations of the Americans. The Republic of Paraguay has said that there is an urgent need to seek a peaceful solution in the view of the destructive atmosphere of violence that has been unleashed by international communism, which is promoting horrible slaughters in keeping with its condemnable hegemonic expansionist plans.

The Republic of Paraguay is and will continue to live in democracy without communism. Our ideological force is unbeatable, our desire for freedom is indestructible. We experienced a historic event on 25 October 1984 on the occasion of the inauguration of Itaipu, the largest hydroelectric plant in the world, which was built by the Republic of Paraguay and the Federative Republic of Brazil in a magnanimous example of cooperation and brotherhood.

With General Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo, the then Brazilian president and good friend of Paraguay, we inaugurated the first two generators. With this significant act, we assured bright futures for our two nations under the sign of clear and frank cooperation, an honorable event that is in keeping with the best traditions of the American Continent. The work at Itaipu is continuing normally and the third turbine will be inaugurated this year.

In response to an invitation extended by the cordial Brazilian Government, I was in Brasilia on 15 March to attend the inauguration of the honorable Tancredo Neves. As is well-known, an unexpected and concerning a health problem impeded Neves, who we wish a rapid recovery, from assuming his duties. In view of this, Vice President Jose Sarney assumed the duties as acting president. My presence in that ceremony allowed me to contact high-ranking dignitaries from friendly countries and relevant personalities from the most varied Brazilian circles. I reasserted my conviction that relations between the Republic of Paraguay and the Federative Republic of Brazil will continue to be highly cordial and satisfactory. I also reasserted our country's high interest in the so-called soybean railroad, which once achieved will be another joint Brazilian-Paraguayan undertaking. This railroad will be another powerful lever to promote national development.

I will now give some figures to refresh your memories. On 6 February 1983, elections for 1983-88 constitutional period were held for president, senators, deputies, and members of election boards. The National Republican Party, the Colorado Party, obtained 944,637 votes; the Radical Liberal Party obtained 59,094 votes; and the Liberal Party obtained 34,010 votes. This was the verdict of the ballot boxes. This is what is valid. Those who are democrats must respect these results. Those who obtain more votes are the majority. The minority must help in making a good government. This is the role of minorities. Those who talk excessively, those who violate juridical principles are enemies of stability, democracy, freedom, and justice. There will be municipal elections in October 1986. Like all the elections that have been held during this historic period, these elections will be free. The legally recognized parties should prepare themselves to carry out their campaigns in keeping with the Constitution and the laws to try to win votes. In a democracy, one must respectfully show the goodness of the ideas that are supported and comply with the verdict of the ballot boxes.

Our representativity is legitimate, because it is based on the people's votes. Our democratic way of life is guaranteed. We will not be weak, we will not be harsh, but we will be firm. We will not be weak before those who instead of treading the path of the ballot boxes prefer to take short cuts through violence, subversion, terror, resentment, and social hatred.

Honorable Members of Congress. upon opening a new legislative period, I voice my hope that the senators and deputies will be successful in fulfilling their task in keeping with the lofty destiny of the Republic of Paraguay.

ARMY INSTALLS SOVIET ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES

PY021500 Paris AFP in Spanish 1657 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 31 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the Peruvian artillery is equipped with long-range and highly destructive Pechora missiles, which can reach a speed of almost 1,000 meters per second, which is faster than most modern supersonic combat airplanes.

The Lima newspaper EL COMERCIO, which gives high-ranking artillery officers as its source, says that although the number of missiles has not been revealed, it is known that they are installed at strategic points in the country on their respective launching pads, ready to be fired in the event of an air attack.

These missiles are probably the Army's most powerful antiaircraft weapons and, make it comparable to the most modern armies of the continent. The newspaper says that the Pechora missiles, which are made in the Soviet Union, are installed four on each pad. They are 7 meters long and have two charges each.

These missiles, which are made to destroy supersonic planes, have radar that can find the enemy at a distance of 450 km. When the missile is 300 or 400 meters from its target, another built-in radar becomes fixed on the target, following it inexorably; and when it gets to within 30 meters of the target, the missile explodes, destroying the airplane.

CHILEAN AIR FORCE PLANE REPORTEDLY DETAINED

PY021345 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0040 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (EFE) -- A Chilean Air Force plane which made a technical stopover at the Lima airport was detained today for 40 minutes by personnel of the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] because of the suspicion that its crew members were taking pictures of military installations.

The FAP personnel were told by the airport control tower that it had received an anonymous call reporting that the Chilean airplane crew was taking pictures of the 8th Air Group military airport, and of the Army aviation installations.

The FAP ordered the Chilean airplane, a Boeing 727, to be transferred to the embarkment area, where, according to a report by the ANDINA official news agency, the captain of the Chilean airplane gave an explanation to a Peruvian commander, and then the plane left for Panama.

The Chilean Air Force plane, which was on its way to Panama from Santiago, landed in Lima to refuel, according to the reports.

(In Santiago, the Chilean Air Force [FACh], Public Relations Department reported that the plane was invited to land at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima to look for a bomb which was presumed to be aboard. The FACh communique, released by the state agency ORBE, added that the airplane continued its flight after an inspection. The news agency added that these statements deny other reports that the airplane was forced to return to the parking area after an anonymous call saying that pictures of the airport were taken from the plane.)

TERRORIST COMMANDOS STEAL GUNS FROM TWO SHOPS

PY022248 Paris AFP in Spanish 1622 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Lima, 31 Mar (AFP) -- A police spokesman reported that two terrorist commando groups of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), that launched simultaneous attacks in broad daylight against two Lima gunsmith shops and took 46 guns of different calibers, are being sought by the police.

Early Saturday afternoon, five men, armed with submachine guns and wearing black berets and uniforms similar to those worn by the Civil Guard, broke into the Magnum Gunsmith shop located in the Surco district of Lima. After overpowering the shop's personnel, they took 32 guns.

Simultaneously, another subversive commando group conducted a similar operation against the Multiproducto Gunsmith shop in the Boza Gallery, located in the dowtown Lima district of Jiron de La Union, which is crowded at that time of day. After hitting the shop owner with the butt of a gun and overpowering four employees, the commandos took 14 automatic pistols, ammunition, and cash.

The subversives, who stole pistols, shotguns and carbines and who acted with precision without causing any suspicion from the numerous people who were nearby at the time of the incidents, are being sought by several police brigades.

Moreover, Interior Minister Oscar Brush yesterday charged in Chiclayo, 750 north of Lima, that a document issued by international communism which justifies the numerous deaths that the communist Shining Path has perpetrated in Peru is now circulating in the country.

According to the interior minister, the document notes that life has no value in itself, that it has no mystical value, and that for terrorists it has no sacred value.

COSTA RICA

BETANCUR ON CONTADORA ROLE IN REGIONAL CONFLICT

PA011741 Paris AFP in Spanish 2226 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today expressed his support for Costa Rica's "verification and control" demands being included in the Contadora peace document and stressed the need for "Central American solutions to Central American problems." At the end of a meeting with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge which lasted nearly 4 hours, Betancur said that the pacification process in Central America "would have collapsed when the first conflict occurred" had the negotiations not been stopped "because of the pressing demand for a verification and control commission." He said: Through our experience in handling peace negotiations with armed groups in Colombia we have learned that such a commission is a sine qua non requirement that "has yielded excellent results. We have been able to examine the seriousness of the conflicts and events in situ and recommend solutions." He also said: Costa Rica's assertion of the need for such a commission in the Contadora process "is very positive," and, although this demand "slowed down the process. It has emerged stronger."

Betancur, who left for Managua at 1450, said that the Contadora process has entered what might be described as "a stage of grace" in this "holy period." He added later: "After disturbances familiar to all occurred during the past few weeks and months, obstacles have been overcome, and the peace efforts have been resumed." He recalled: The Central American deputy foreign ministers have been called to a meeting in the second week of April to examine demands presented by several countries. The Contadora Group has considered these demands very carefully, because we think they repond to realities." For example, he said, "there is no doubt that if the process had been initiated and the peace document signed without considering the need for a verification and control commission, the first conflict would have undone the whole process."

Last year Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador asked that the control mechanisms, particularly those regarding military and security matters, of the Contadora document be clarified.

Asked about the role that the United States and the USSR play in the Central American conflict, Betancur replied: "We must keep it within Central America. We must not allow it to become part of the East-West confrontation." If the East-West confrontation continues, and "I hope it does not, let it do so in some other area, outside the Caribbean," he remarked. He added: "What we want is a Central American solution to the Central American situation, and only the area countries can do that. That would be the quintessence" of a peaceful agreement.

The Colombian leader said that he is against the United States' participating in the Contadora negotiations, because "it is not part of Central America." "However," he said, "whenever we think about the problem we keep in mind that any country which in one way or another has any kind of interest in Central America will undoubtedly influence the course of the consolidation of the peace process. This is unavoidable." "That does not mean that superpowers must intervene directly. What we are trying to do is to have Central America come up with its own solutions," he clarified.

Asked about the Reagan administration's support for the Nicaraguan rebels, Betancur explained that "the Contadora peace process emphasizes Latin America's common law." This right "was not invented for the occasion. It is based on the peoples' right to self-determination, on nonintervention of one state in another state's affairs, and on the peaceful solution of conflicts. That is our frame of reference," concluded the Colombian head of state.

EL SALVADOR

OFFICIAL VOTE COUNT DELAYED; PROCEDURES UNDER REVIEW

PA030018 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2305 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Apr (DPA) -- El Salvador's Central Electoral Council [CCE] has not yet begun the official tally of the votes cast during Sunday's legislative and municipal elections. A CCE spokesman stated this afternoon that the three members of that body are discussing vote counting procedures with party representatives and Salvadoran Attorney General Francisco Guerrero. The spokesman said that he does not know when the vote count, originally scheduled to begin at noon today, will begin. CCE member Francisco Merino stated that despite reports of voting irregularities, none of the 9 parties that registered candidates for the 60 legislative seats and the 262 mayorships have protested officially. Meanwhile, the guerrillas have lifted the traffic ban that they maintained over the past 5 days.

ELECTION OFFICIAL SUPPORTS PDC VICTORY CLAIM

PA021838 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1729 GMT 2 Apr 85

[By Sandra Maler]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 2 Apr (REUTER) -- The preliminary unofficial results of Sunday's elections in El Salvador announced by the CCE last night uphold the victory claim made by President Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. A recount of 40 percent of the votes for the legislature shows that the PDC is ahead in 8 of the 14 provinces, including the 6 largest provinces. It is estimated that the final election result will be announced on Thursday or Friday.

The elections convoked for the National Legislative Assembly and for municipal mayorships were held after a bitter campaign waged by the PDC and a right-wing alliance. Political sources noted that the right, which would lose its majority in the Legislative Assembly if the current elections returns are maintained, might denounce an electoral fraud. Mario Samayoa, president of the CCE, said last night: I want to inform the people that they can have total confidence in the CCE.

The results announced last night confirmed PDC estimates that they would obtain at least 23 of the 60 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 200 of the 262 mayorships. In the local elections the CCE reported that the PDC is ahead in 66 of the 109 municipalities counted compared to 43 obtained by the right-wing. Duarte has said that his first measure will be to resume the peace talks with the left-wing guerrillas to try to end the 5-year long civil war.

COALITION REQUESTS NULLIFICATION OF ELECTIONS

PA030342 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0247 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Excerpts] I am reporting directly from the installations at the international fair.

First, the Attorney General's Office has no official or unofficial knowledge of the new developments at the international fair, and therefore has preferred not to make any statement in this respect tonight. However, we must note the lack of respect toward the national and international press by the members of the CCE. We repeat: We consider it necessary to protest the disrespectful attitude and violation of the right to freedom of expression by the CCE members, who have coordinated this civic-political activity, in view of the fact that they have closed access to information as well as the institution's doors to the national and international press, even though they were previously open to the press by common agreement.

A request for the nullification of last Sunday's elections was presented tonight at the CCE by Raul Molina Martinez of the National Conciliation Party, PCN, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, and Manuel Pacas Castro. At this time, the three CCE members are meeting behind closed doors and have not made an official report to the press or the nation. According to legal procedures, the vote counting will not begin at the international fair until a decision is made regarding the request for nullification presented by the coalition made up of ARENA, PCN, and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party.

Unofficially, we have learned that the coalition has based its request for nullification of the elections on charges that the Salvadoran Armed Forces assumed a biased position during Sunday's elections. We repeat: this is an unofficial report since the text of the document has not been revealed. However, this information was leaked to national and international press tonight by members of the coalition in El Salvador.

CCE President Comments

PA030456 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0357 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Interview with Mario Samayoa, CCE president, by Raul Beltran at the CCE headquarters in San Salvador on 2 April -- live]

[Text] [Beltran] We have approached Mario Samayoa, CCE president, to ask him about the situation that has emerged tonight. What information do you have for the Salvadoran people?

[Samayoa] Yes, good evening. This is a message to the Salvadoran people who are following the current political events with great interest. After a glorious date in which elections were held for the fourth time in less than 3 years, there is an attempt to deceive the people's right to elect their leaders at the polls. These elections were another testimony and example of the civic spirit that was witnessed by all Salvadoran citizens, international observers, and the national and international press. How is it possible that, after praising and acknowledging the Armed Forces' cooperation, this institution is now accused of helping a political group. This is very grave and could be considered a crime of high treason, as it is an attempt to destabilize the electoral process and the consolidation of the democratic process supported by the Salvadoran people, who want to live in a de jure state.

[Beltran] Dr Mario Samayoa, you have talked with the CCE members. According to Article 146, you have 24 hours to answer the challenge. What is the current situation? Will the vote count begin tonight? Will the challenge definitely be accepted?

[Samayoa] I do not know what decision has been adopted by the other CCE members. I want to fulfill a CCE resolution issued yesterday when all the political parties were convoked to start the official vote count. Therefore, as CCE president I have the legal authority to fulfill the resolution.

[Beltran] To conclude the interview, can you tell us the specifics of the challenge?

[Samayoa] As I have said, and this will be published, one of the arguments, or perhaps the main argument, used by the coalition is the attempt to accuse the Armed Forces of supporting a specific political party on the day of the elections. This is totally unwarranted and I have said that this should be considered treason. It is not logical or correct that after congratulating the Armed Forces for their cooperation, they should be accused of something that only exists in the minds of those who want to destabilize this democratic process.

CLASHES NEAR BORDER CONTINUE, HONDURANS ON ALERT

PA022236 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 85

[By Raul Beltran]

[Text] Good morning, listeners of Radio Cadena YSU reports from Chalatenango Department follow: Military sources confirmed early this morning that actions between leftist guerrilla groups and the Army continue near San Fernando, only 3 km from the Honduran border. Air Force units attacked the leftist rebels' positions yesterday afternoon. Meanwhile, Jose Napoleon Duarte, Armed Forces commander general and president, confirmed that a message has been sent to the Honduran Government and Armed Forces regarding the leftist rebels' movements. Honduran troops immediately took up positions within their territory to safeguard the common border between the two nations. It has been confirmed that two Army members have died, three are reported missing, and seven have been wounded during the clashes near San Fernando. This includes the actions that occurred between Monday and the early morning hours of Tuesday. Meanwhile, patrol activities have continued in all the areas of Chalatenango to provide security for the municipal electoral boards so that they may take all of the material used in Sunday's elections to the departmental capital in Chalatenango, and then on to the capital by air.

Now, we have information from San Salvador Department: Leaders of different political parties in the town of Ilopango have accused each other saying that abnormal things continue to take place at the John F. Kennedy School of Ilopango where all of the ballots, used and not used during Sunday's elections, have been collected. Even though all of the political parties have issued constant calls to the CCE organization and the department electoral board, the highest local electoral authority in Ilopango, they have done nothing to solve the legal problems that continue to arise at the John F. Kennedy School.

Information from the eastern region of the country: Traffic on the Pan-American Highway, Coastal Highway, and the Military Route has normalized since the early Tuesday morning when the FMLN leftist guerrillas lifted the ban imposed on transportation activities. According to the information from the eastern sector of the country, only a few Army units are patrolling the highways and traffic is normal again. This includes 60 container trucks that were stuck at the El Amatillo border post between Honduras and El Salvador; the drivers preferred not to drive while the leftist guerrillas' ban was enforced.

News from Usulutan Department: The leftist rebels have sabotaged electric power lines; the department has been without electricity since last night.

HONDURAS

REPORTAGE ON CONGRESS-PRESIDENT CONFLICT

Bar Association Communique

PA011802 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Communique released by the Honduran Bar Association, CAH, on 31 March in Tegucigalpa; read by Gustavo Acosta Mejia, president of the CAH Human Rights Commission]

[Text] The CAH Board of Directors and Human Rights Commission have held a joint emergency meeting to discuss and adopt measures regarding the arbitrary and unlawful imprisonment of Ramon Valladares Soto, a member of our honor tribunal, who was recently elected and sworn in by the sovereign National Congress as president of the Supreme Court of Justice, and the arrest warrants issued against fellow bar members Martin Albarado Echeverria; Miguel Angel Rivera Portillo, Bar Association president; Domingo Vasquez Ortiz; Orlando Lazano Martinez; Jose Fernandez Guzman; Lisandro Deras Arevalo; Saul Munoz Orellana; and Teovaldo Enamorado Suazo, CAH sergeant at arms, all of whom the National Congress elected and swore in as justices or alternates of the honorable Supreme Court of Justice.

In view of the gravity of these developments, which constitute an unprecedented outrage against these highest ranking judicial branch officials -- who under the Constitution enjoy immunity -- as well as a violation of their personal guarantees, the CAH organs, in line with their invariable stance of guarding the rights and guarantees of their members, unanimously adopted the following decisions at their meeting:

1. To demand the immediate release of Companero Ramon Valladares Soto and an end to the persecution of the other Bar members mentioned above.

2. To entrust the legal assistance of the detainee and all the other persons accused to the Commission of Criminal Lawyers comprised of Bar members Edgardo Caceres Castellanos, Jose Maria Palacios, Jorge Alberto Burgos, Armando Aguilar Cruz, and Jorge Omar Casco.

3. To visit Companero Ramon Valladares Soto in the central penitentiary to express to him the solidarity of the CAH, notify him of the agreements reached in connection with his illegal detention, and learn about his health and the conditions under which he is enduring his unjust detention.

4. To communicate these developments, as well as the CAH's protest, to all related organizations in the hemisphere and the rest of the world, requesting their solidarity and support in obtaining the release of lawyer Ramon Valladares Soto and the restoration of his individual rights and those of the other companeros currently being sought by the police.

5. To request the solidarity of the professional associations of the Republic, especially of the varous chapters of this Bar Association.

6. To remain in permanent session, following the course of events and taking the appropriate steps in defense of our victimized companeros, and to ask all bar members to remain similarly alert in order to heed any convocation to a general assembly that might be issued by our Board of Directors.

We ask the national public to note that the companeros indicted have done nothing but fulfill a civic obligation, heeding an appeal by the sovereign National Congress to accept the posts for which they were elected and to make the corresponding constitutional pledge.

Issued at CAH headquarters in Tegucigalpa, on 31 March; Members of the Board of Directors

[Signed] For the Board of Directors: (Victor Sabillon), president; for the CAH Human Rights Commission: Gustavo Acosta Mejia, president

Court Finds Deputies Guilty

PA021530 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1158 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] The First Criminal Court has ruled against the 52 deputies [as heard] of the National Congress who advocated the restructuring of the Supreme Court of Justice. It has found the 52 deputies guilty of attacking the government and began procedures to have them declared to have legally committed libel in order to begin their trial. The matter was disclosed during yesterday's session of Congress, during which Mario Enrique Prieto, secretary of Congress, read a memorandum sent by Felipe Elbir Rojas, deputy secretary of government. The memorandum includes an affidavit remitted by the Supreme Court of Justice to the Secretariat of Government, notifying the executive branch of ongoing proceedings. This the the text of the memorandum:

Following the instruction of the Supreme Court of Justice, and in order that it may follow due legal procedures, I hereby remit to you the affidavit issued by the judge of the First Criminal Court of Francisco Morazan on 29 March 1985.

Sincerely yours,

Otilio Vanegas, Secretary, Supreme Court of Justice

To: Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, secretary of state for government and justice

The undersigned, secretary of the Supreme Court of Justice, in compliance with instructions issued on 29 March, hereby attests to the following proceedings:

First Criminal Court, Tegucigalpa, 29 March

Whereas:

At 1230 on Friday, 29 March, this criminal court has learned through the media that today at the sovereign National Congress the following have been sworn in as new justices of the Supreme Court of Justice: Ramon Valladares Soto, Martin Alvarado Echeverria, Miguel Angel Rivera Portillo, Domingo Vasquez, Orlando Lozano Martinez, Jose Fernandez Guzman, Lisandro Lleras Arevalo, Saul Munoz Orellana, and Teobaldo Enamorado Suazo, after being elected to their positions by the Congress on Thursday, 28 March.

The following deputies voted yea: Heriberto Alcantara Mejia, Oscar Alvarez Duron, Jose Simon Ascona Hoyo, Nelson Eddy Barralaga Villalta, Jose Efrain Bu Giron, Romualdo Bueso Penalba, Elias Jones Calix, Roberto Edgardo Cantero Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cardona Valdez de Torres, Jose Armando Cordova Medina, Jose Nicolas Cruz Torres, Natarael Del Cid Menendez, Manuel de Jesus Flores Ramirez, Hector Orlando Gomez Cisneros, Leonidas Meza Ricarte, Marco Tulio Lagos Funez, Tula Herrera Cruz de Burgos, Napoleon Guillen Mendez, William Franklin Hall Rivera, Servelio Hernandez Argueta, Jacobo Omar Hernandez Cruz, Alfredo Jalil Salomon, Ema America Varela Vega Arjia, Oswaldo Lainez Valladares, Jose Maria Leiva Vivas, David Antonio Mendoza Lupiac, Jaime Emerson Mondragon Carcamo, Carlos Orbin Montoya, Alfredo Montoya Rodriguez, Marco Tulio Munguia Suazo, Vicente Murillo Duron, Jorge Alberto Pineda Arita, Marco Antonio Ponce Paguada, Mario Enrique Rivera Lopez, Raul Robles Funez, Modesto Rodas Baca, Ponpilio Romero Martinez, Armando Rosales Peralta, Hector Facundo Savion Cruz, Rene Sagastume Castillo, Carlos Humberto Salgado Chavez, Donaldo Suazo Tome, Manuel Octavio Suazo Urquia, Graciela Pineda de Giron, Jose Tito Valle, Armando Velasquez Cerrato, Oscar Rafael Ochoa, Angel Valentin Aguilar Ordonez, Joaquin Rosales Barralaga, and Jose Valoit Padilla.

This court has found grounds to proceed against said deputies for the official crime against the government system of the Honduran state, based on Article 328, Section 2 of the Criminal Code, that reads: Persons break the law when they carry out actions directly intended to obtain by force or outside legal means any of the following:

1.2 To alter the composition of any of the branches of government -- executive or judicial -- or attack their independence.

In compliance with the law, I have proceeded to introduce initial legal processes against said deputies, in accordance with Article 120, Section 1 of the Criminal Code. Therefore, this First Criminal Court of Francisco Morazan, on behalf of the Honduran state, and based on Articles 303, 304, and 319 of the Constitution of the Republic, Articles 1 and 40, Section 30 of the Law of Organiztion and Attributes of Courts, Articles 119, 120, Sections 1, 121, 122 of the Criminal Proceedings Code, and 328, Section 2, of the current Criminal Code rules that having found sufficient ground to order initial proceedings against said deputies, remits this first judicial action to the honorable Supreme Court of Justice so that it may give it due process.

Execute, Marco Antonio Lanza, judge; Daniel Odoquin, secretary; Supreme Court of Justice; Tegucigalpa, 29 March 1985

The above records and proceedings have been received in this Secretariat, which attests to them, after which said affidavit be sent to the Secretariat of Government and Justice, so it may submit it to the sovereign National Congress, so it may declare whether or not it finds such charges processable by law, in accordance with Article 121 of the Criminal Proceedings Code.

Execute, Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, Marco Tulio Castillo Santos, Jose Cisne Reyes, Jose Antonio Suazo Mejia, Aroldo Lopez Herrera, Jorge Reyes Diaz, Rosendo Contreras Zuniga, Ismael Zapata Rosa, Marco Tulio Alvarado Lozano, Otilio Vargas M, secretary; Tegucigalpa, 29 March

[Signed] Otilio Vanegas M, secretary; received on 29 March at 1600. Adoniro Gonzalez, chief clerk, secretariat of state for government of justice; Tegucigalpa, 1 April 1985

I have received the affidavit of the Supreme Court of Justice, and hereby notify the sovereign National Congress, in order that it declare whether or not it finds the charges to be processable by law, based on Article No 121 of the Criminal Proceedings Code.

Execute, Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, minister of state for government and justice

In compliance with the above writ, on 1 April it is remitted to the National Congress for evaluation of merit. Seven flies accompany this document. Adoniro Gonzalez, chief clerk.

Bu Giron Defends Position

PA022130 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1835 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Statement by Jose Efrain Bu Giron, president of the National Congress, during a debate at the Congress in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] From the beginning of this situation, certain spokesmen with vested interests have tried to distort the truth and the developments and blame the National Congress of the Republic for the situation of uncertainty and lack of tranquillity being experienced in the country at the present time. An effort was made to ridicule most of the deputies of this National Congress. A campaign of diatribes and insults was unleashed against the president of the National Congress. Sometimes, right here, deputies, fellow companeros who have been members of the party with us, have made empirical analyses of the constitutional truth and have stated that we violated the Constitution. I maintain that it is not so. We are defending the full enforcement of the Constitution for the benefit of Honduran society.

It has been said that we are intransigent and that we want to destabilize the government and break the constitutional order. But the truth is different our intentions is to establish a regimeof justice that is a guarantee for the Honduran society. However, this is not mentioned or heard. They distort this and we appear as people who are interested in causing evil for the Republic. Last night, we planned to make a television appearance. The president of the National Congress and a group of deputies were to address the Honduran people but someone found out about it and a national network was established last night for the government to explain its truth. But what was this truth? A dear and old friend began to insult me. I don't think that the public should be insulted with such a performance that places the government in a compromising position. But aside from that, we have not attacked the executive branch, nor have we attacked the Supreme Court. We limited ourselves to an investigation based on facts to determine the corruption that has prevailed in the judicial branch. This is a truth that cannot be covered with one finger. However, the Supreme Court, contrary to what it should be, has become the comptroller of the legislative branch, the first branch of the state. This type of situation can only happen in Honduras, fellow deputies. Finally, as if this were not enough, we are accused of conspiring against state security, and we are to be tried and exhibited as common criminals.

It is being said that we are going to jail. I think when truth, reason, and justice is defended, it would be an honor for us. I ask you to never be afraid of what can happen. We will offer our sacrifice to the fatherland. I say this with integrity and with bravery.

The Hunduran people must know that we are not violating the constitutional order, that we are not attacking the other branches of state. Yesterday, when the report was being sent, at that very moment, the preliminary hearing judge left for the presidency. Everyone saw Mr lanza when he arrived at the presidential palace. Why did he go there, if this is a different branch from the executive branch? These conjectures must be made by the Honduran people. However, we are not intransigent. We are by nature conciliatory, but we want to conciliate with justice and law. We do not want to conciliate and then in practice have the sword of Damocles at our backs. The public branch must reconsider and retrace its steps, it must release the justices, postpone our trial, and the justices of the Supreme Court should be given a pretrial because they did violate the law and a number of constitutional precepts.

Yesterday, a commission from the General Workers Confederation [CGT] visited me, and I think there were also members of the National Union of Peasants [UNC] and the Honduran Private Enterprise Council [COHEP], to tell me of their concern over the present situation in the country. I told them that we are willing to calm the people's spirits, because this is what is happening, the people are nervous. Right here, there are deputies whose words drip with hatred. I do not think this should be that way. Problems should be discussed here with loftiness. With loftiness but also with great dignity, because we cannot bow our heads in response to the abuses of the public branch, which is attacking the first branch of the state. This is a truth that the Honduran people are aware of, and the American people are aware of it too. At this time there is concern in the parliaments of America and the world over the situation the Honduran parliamentarians are facing. Nevertheless, I will vote for the motion [reference to the proposal presented by PINU and the PDC to end the crisis] to be taken into consideration, because I feel that the persons who create the motion are doing so with good intentions; intentions that will not be understood by those who want to discredit the National Congress and prevent the solution of the difficult crisis the country is facing, as a result of the executive branch's intransigence and interference in the affairs of the legislative branch. Because of this, I vote in favor of the motion so it can be discussed.

Foreign Secretary Press Conference

PA020615 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0145 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Press conference held by Foreign secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica; Secretary of the Presidency Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta, and Professor Rafael Pineda Ponce, official spokesman for the Central Executive Council of the Rodist Liberal Movement at Televicentro in Tegucigalpa on 2 April -- live]

[Text] [Paz Barnica] Good evening, gentlemen, Honduran people. In the first place, I want to set forth the main objective of this press conference, in which the secretary of the Presidency and parliamentarian and Professor Rafael Pineda Ponce are participating. Our purpose is to try to explain to both national and international opinion what has been described as a conflict of powers that has brought about a crisis in Honduras. Then, we will point out the consittutional aspects that have influenced this crisis. When there is a conflict of personal or other interests, whether it occurs in individuals, in the society, or in the state, understanding, moderation and common sense must prevail. When there is a crisis and legal corrective measures are not taken in time, the unity among all Hondurans becomes more and more necessary, without any exceptions. By this we mean unity in and among political parties in order to strengthen democracy and the unity of the various social sectors to foster Honduras' economic and overall development. With this spirit, we are here to answer -- in all frankness -- any questions that you want to ask.

[Moderator] After this brief introduction by the foreign secretary, we will now proceed to questions and answers. Journalist Guillermo Castellanos will now move to the proper place to ask his question.

[Castellanos] Good evening, Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign secretary of the Republic, secretary of the Presiency; Professor Pineda Ponce. In his brief explanation on the reason for this press conference, the foreign secretary has admitted that there is a crisis. Naturally, all crises must have a solution. In this particular case, as he said, there is a conflict or clash between the three powers of state -- the executive, legislative, and judicial. In this case, the crisis can have a political solution, or perhaps also a formal legal solution. To make clear the unrest that this situation in the government, we ask the government representatives: Which of these two solutions do you think is the most feasible for the problem under discussion?

[Arriaga] That is a good question. It also (?alludes) to the nature of [words indistinct]. All crises have an origin, a development, and a solution. We believe that we have been approaching the climax of the situation and merits a solution. We do believe this is a crisis of a political nature [words indistinct] formal, personal, and constitutional factors. Apparently, the formal and constitutional aspects have been already resolved. [words indistinct] In truth, the crisis [words indistinct] the legal aspect would have been closed to us right away. (?solutions) and explanations have been offered to the Honduran people to the effect that the Constitution has been violated because all requirements provided for by the Constitution replacement of power have not been satisfied. Then it has been (?said) that the formalities were not fulfilled and that this is what precipitated the crisis and the legal aspect was not resolved. However, as I said, the political part continues, which reveals that the matter is also political, and that perhaps, this was the main reason for [word indistinct]. We are in a political year, the presidential candidates are being selected, we are only a few days away from a convention that will be definitive for this political year, which will be the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH] convention on 14 April. This, precisely, has been the reason why some sectors have tried to reverse the order of powers, in order to obtain benefits that are apparently secondary, but that politically speaking are definitive, and very importnat, in relation to the struggle among PLH candidates. Therefore, now, after resolving the formal, legal, and constitutional aspect of the problem, solutions are pending in the other aspect. In other words, we should be aware of the fact that events will take their own course, and that the problem might be definitely resolved in accordance with the PLH regulations and statutes at the 14 April convention. There is also the possibility that there could be a rapprochement, contacts, talks, or that forces with no political interest, but which are also very concerned over the situation, might want to participate impartially in solving or contributing to solving the problem.

[Moderator] Rafael Pineda Ponce would like to add something to the statement made by Secretary of the Presidency Ubodoro Arriaga.

[Pineda Ponce] Journalists, Honduran people: This is a time for Christian mediation. The Bible says you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free. Unfortunately, there is no absolute truth, as the truth is relative. However, it is important for our compatriots to have a clear understanding of the origin and consequences of what has been called an institutional crisis. Although the consequences have been and are still of a legal nature, the origin of this situation is essentially political. You may recall a statement made by Carlos Montoya, who said it was vital to reorganize the Supreme Court, in order to restructure the National Electoral Tribunal and obtain the recognition of the Central Executive Council headed by Romualdo Bueso Penalba. This statement alone summarizes the origin of the crisis, which is political. If the Central Executive Council headed by Bueso Penalba were to be recognized, there would be a better possibility of promoting a presidential candidacy headed by the current president of the National Congress.

To this end, an investigation on the administration of justice in the country was proposed. A report was issued and approved hastily. The justices were appointed without approval of the minutes, and again, without approval of the minutes, the justices were sworn in.

[Moderator] Daniel Izaguirre will ask the next question.

[Izaguirre] Good evening. My question is specifically for the foreign secretary. Everyone knows that the unlimited personal ambitions of the current politicians -- including those in the PLH, which you currently represent, and the National Party -- are driving this country, and even the Armed Forces, to interrupt the democratic process that began about 3 years ago. Undoubtedly, this has affected our international image. It has an effect over our loans, our friends, the aid for our country, and so forth. From the international point of view, Mr Minister, what could be the implications and effects of the crisis in the PLH, which affects our country, considering that we live in a convulsed Central Amerca, and considering the threats we are currently facing?

[Paz Barnica] I will answer your question with pleasure. As you know, Honduras is a member of the international legal community, and as such, is member of worldwide international organizations, such as the United Nations, and of regional organizations, such as the OAS. We are currently facing an internal crisis in Honduras but undoubtedly, it also has international repercussions. I would say that to analyze the international repercussions of the current crisis, in which the legislative branch has flagrantly violated the Constitution in detriment of the judicial branch, we must start from the fact that Honduras is a developing country, and is also going thorugh a process of democratization. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government of the Republic -- through President Suazo Cordova, who has been invested with legal faculties in accordance with the constitutional laws -- to promote all the necessary actions for the social and economic development, and to take all the necessary measures to strengthen and consolidate the democratic process, with the full support of the Honduran people and firm support of the Armed Forces. When I say with the full support of the Honduran people and the firm support of the Armed Forces, I say on the basis of clear facts: The Honduran people freely elected President Suazo Cordova and the Armed Forces, as a professional and permanent institution, guaranteed free and honest elections. Therefore, the international repercussions of this crisis have to do with the fact that Honduras is a developing country, and is going through a democratization process. I would mention the following aspects, among others: The Central American conflict places Honduras in a strategic position within the geopolitical framework, which is something that I have discussed with you journalists many times before. Because of this position, Honduras must play a moderate and balanced role in the Central American crisis, and not that of a gendarme defending the interests that are contrary to the nationalistic spirit of our own countries and contrary to the concept of independence that our peoples are trying to strengthen. Within this context of the Central American crisis, Honduras has been participating in the process of negotiations for peace in Central America promoted by the Contadora Group since 1983. The presidents and foreign ministers of the Contadora Group have strongly and publicly recognized that Honduras -- within the framework of its foreign policy, and following the guidelines of President Suazo Cordova, who directs the policy to be followed by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat -- has given the greatest contributions to promoting and encouraging the Contadora Group's peace efforts as a feasible alternative for finding a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis.

There are regional and multilateral negotiations on Central America within the framework of the Contadora Group. Logically, the internal crisis will have repercussions because the documents approved within the Contadora framework even refer to a process of internal conciliation in countries affected by a crisis or division within its society.

Another aspect which I consider fundamental, perhaps even more so than the previous one, is the priority that national interests should have in the concept of values. In this case, I am referring to the bilateral negotiations with El Salvador on the delimitation and demarcation of territorial and maritime border areas. We must admit that there have been no substantial advances in the direct negotiations. It has not been Honduras' fault and we can clearly demonstrate that we have done everything we can to achieve this objective. However, we must remember that there is another country involved, since we are talking about bilateral negotiations. Now, we must ask ourselves: To what extent will our negotiating ability to defend a vital interest for Honduras, such as the demarcation of our border with El Salvador, be weakened by a difficult situation like we are now confronting?

In addition, as you know, since last year the government of President Suazo Cordova presented several proposals to the U.S. Government on ways to achieve greater economic cooperation that could permit the promotion of economic and social development. We also presented proposals aimed at achieving substantial security cooperation so that we can have access to the defense mechanisms at a time of crisis in which the Honduran state is being threatened in a conflictive region in the world, where an ideological battle is being waged between freedom and fear, between oppression and democracy, between backwardness and progress. Thus, we are engaged in what I consider to be very serious negotiations with the United States of America, one of the two superpowers in the world. In my opinion, these three aspects are processes of negotiation that must be maintained and strengthened. Therefore, those who are responsible for this crisis should meditate on the harm that their intransigent and arrogant attitude could be doing to Honduras' vital interests.

I would like to add one more thing. Yesterday, the illustrious Colombian President Belisario Betancur was in Honduras and visited La Paz. His visit was a matter of great pride for Hondurans. It was a testimony of democratic solidarity with the democratic government of President Suazo Cordoba. Logically, the president, cabinet members, the diplomatic corps, Carlos Manuel Arita, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the heads of the various government institutions were at the welcoming ceremony. However, the president of the National Congress was not there because he allowed subjective capriciousness to prevail over a national interest of international significance. I talked to Efrain Bu Giron 3 days ago. I reiterated President Suazo Cordova's invitation, and he told me he would be there. However, he did not go. I think that in addition to being an act of discourtesy toward a foreign dignitary, who promotes democracy and peace and has international prestige, it also showed disdain for and ignorance about the importance of international relations in modern times, a time of cooperation and interdependence. However, there are those who prefer to play the role of Robinson Crusoe and isolate themselves on an island, with a [word indistinct] mentality.

[Danilo Izaguirre of LA PRENSA] Good evening, Minister Paz Barnica, Ubodoro Arriaga, and Rafael Pineda Ponce. Have the intellectual men who direct our country's destiny lost their sensitivity and feelings, or will arrogance and personal ambitions lead our people to destruction? Or will we allow isolated feelings to harm our country?

When two persons have provoked a confrontation between two government branches, a call has been made for a national dialogue to seek a solution, private enterprise has called for understanding, without any results. Where are our political leaders taking us, gentlemen?

[Arriaga] You have shown great concern and interest in the current situation. [Words indistinct] because not only those in the government should be interested in the problem. In reality, political events and political situations are extremely powerful. Political interests make men get carried away and make certain decisions, out of weakness or a lack of civic or political capability. In those cases, the special laws of society prevail, and this can endanger the existence of a state. In other historical times, the conquering states took advantage of the moments of weakness and disorder to conquer other states. Today, fortunately, that historical phase belongs to the past. In the past, the best time to conquer a nation was when there was a very serious crisis that weakened the nationality and all the civic virtues. However, I repeat, fortunately this was a historical phase which the world has overcome. The situation is different today. I believe, as all Hondurans do, that when occupying a public position, we should leave our personal interests at home. In performing our duties, particularly when representing the people, we should comply with our duties as established in the laws of the country, specifically in the Constitution of the Republic. The respect for the Constitution is also fundamental for the permanent life of a state, particularly for a state with democratic ideals.

Going back to your question, we must stress that the men involved in the conflict should give up their personal and absolutely selfish interests because it is well-known that personal interests, rather than collective and national interests have characterized this crisis. The crisis has been characterized by the presence of personal ambitions. We could ask ourselves: if the causes of the crisis were what some have tried to make believe, this would have happened before. Why has it happened only a few days before the Liberal Party convention? Why weren't the procedures necessary for a pretrial carried out? This would have legalized the procedures against the people allegedly at fault? There was plenty of time for that. And it was not so urgently necessary to solve the problem of the courts and of the National Electoral Tribunal and the Liberal Party [word indistinct] before 14 April. This is what generated the crisis and why the crisis developed in such a brief period of time. As we said at the beginning: This is a purely personal problem and not one of civic or community interests [words indistinct].

[Jose Trinidad Murillo of Radio America] Good evening, Dr Paz Barnica, Mr Arriaga, and Professor Pineda Ponce. As journalist, we have been concerned. We have been covering the situation at the National Congress. We know that there is an institutional crisis although some government sectors are trying to deny or minimize the problem. The truth is that Dr Paz Barnica is very concerned, as was made evident by his introductory statement at this press conference. Today I heard Joge Bueso Arias, a man with a well-known record, a moral and honest man. He referred to three points that appeared in a document issued by the People's Liberal Alliance [ALIPO]. In one of the points, ALIPO asks Dr Suazo Cordova to resign as coordinator of the Rodist Movement because that makes him an interested party in the problem. Bueso Arias requested the release of Ramon Valladares Soto and called for a prompt understanding between the conflicting sectors. Andoine Fernandez, leader of the Innovation and Unity Party [PINU], and the Christian Democratic Party made a similar appeal in three key points that appear in a motion to be presented to the National Congress. The motion calls for the appointment of a commission that would be aimed at securing a dialogue between the conflicting sectors to avoid the conflict.

Would President Suazo Cordova, his ministers, and the governing party be in favor of establishing this open dialogue to overcome this crisis?

[Pineda Ponce] I believe that as societies improve, they create institutions to rule their activities. Dialogue is the most adequate way to solve conflicts among people and civilized institutions. However, dialogues must take place in a determined framework, they cannot happen where there is nothing. The framework of society is the law. The proposal of Bueso Arias has a healthy intention but the call for the resignation of the Supreme Court of Justice elected by the National Congress for a constitutional period of 4 years and for the resignation of the other court elected through a violation of the Constitution, and the appeal for the release, without due process, of Ramon Valladares Soto, are an invitation to act contrary to what has apparently been a concern of the Congress. Congress has said that it is struggling for the law and for a strict application of justice. If the president of the Supreme Court, Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, was elected by the National Congress for a 4-year term, in line with Article 304 of the Constitution, what is the reason for dismissing him or for urging him to resign when resignation is a voluntary action?

If Valladares Soto is facing a legal process, there is no other way to solve this than through the procedures established by the law. To ask for a suspension of the legal process he is facing for no reason at all means to ask for an action that is precisely the type of action that Congress says we must prevent, an action against the law. The dialogue is valid, but in the framework of the Constitution and the law. Article 328, Section 2, of the Penal Code establishes that [words indistinct] state security whoever participates in any meddling by one state branch in the affairs of another. There can be active or passive participation. Congress has been an active party, but as attorneys, those who accepted the election as justices -- and they are good attorneys, I have been told -- knew what they were doing and are therefore passive agents. The solution must take place in the framework of the law. We welcome the dialogue, but a dialogue must not imply violating the law.

[David Romero of Radio America] In his first statement, Dr Arriaga said that this crisis has two implications: political and judicial. In the opinion of the secretary of the presidency, the judicial aspect has been resolved, considering that at Congress today we were informed of the process initiated by the First Criminal Court against 50 deputies who were elected by the people in recent elections?

[Unidentified speaker] Formally speaking we said that the judicial aspect initially had been limited to legal dispositions: to the action of electing justices for the Supreme Court of Justice when there is already a court that was elected. This situation has provoked other judicial incidents and [words indistinct] but these are secondary. The fundamental judicial aspect appeared at the beginning, with the violation of articles of the Constitution. This brought secondary violations of secondary laws and this is what is being analyzed at this moment in some courts of the Republic.

[David Romero] This means that the judicial problem was solved when the letter was sent to the new president of the Supreme Court, the one who was elected by a majority of the deputies in the National Congress.

[Arriaga] This is another consequence of the violation of the Constitution. That action established that there was a violation of the Constitution, that the articles of the Consitution that deal with the appointment of justices to the Supreme Court were violated. This was established. This has been proven. Everyone knows it is this way. They were unable to exercise their functions. The Armed Forces, which are the guarantors of the Constitution and of the democratic system, obeyed the orders of the president who is the executive branch. This is what [words indistinct]. Now there will be suits, trials, processes, and so forth, but this is a secondary situation.

Pineda Ponce] I have with me Decree No 7 of 25 January 1982 which states: The ational Congress decrees: Citizen Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo has been elected chief ustice of the Supreme Court of Justice for the period 27 January 1982 to 27 January 986. It is signed by Efrain Bu Giron, Alberto Rodriguez Espinoza, and Juan Pablo rrutia Raudales. How then can a person be removed and another be appointed to replace im if the period he is to serve is stipulated in this decree? Isn't this an attack n the constitutional government? How can officials or employees at any level be emoved? Thorugh voluntary resignations, outright fault, interdiction, because the per- on is unfit or mentally ill, or by a breach in the fulfillment of his duties and esponsibilities. How can this be established in the case of officials who enjoy mmunity, in accordance with the Constitution? Through a pretrial, such as the one that s currently taking place at the First Criminal Court. It must then go through the upreme Court of Justice, and from there to the Secretariat of Government and Justice, nd finally to the National Congress. Those three steps lead to removal. If this is rue in the case of lesser officials, then it should even be more so at such a high evel as the Supreme Court of Justice.

Moderator] The foreign secretary will comment on this.

Paz Barnica] There is a de jure state that rules the separation of the two powers. A undamental text, which is the Constitution of the Republic, must be complied with and espected. Professor Pineda Ponce clearly read the decree that appoints a Supreme Court n a legal manner, without defending or evaluating the acts of men, but defending the nstitutions. The legal procedure is followed to change the Constitution, to modify it, r to amend it, and to establish other mechanisms to replace the magistrates of the upreme Court. I believe that the political leaders, including the president of the ational Congress, should think about three pieces of advice offered by Bertrand Rus- ell, the former British philosopher, which he considered important within the context f the philosophy of life. The first was to have the courage to accept the forces that annot be changed. The second was to be obstinate enough to change those things that an be changed. And the third was to have the necessary intelligence never to confuse ome things with others. I believe that this is fundamental in relation to the validity f the Constitution.

Noel Leiva] Dr Paz Barnica, you told the diplomatic corps that the crisis was brought bout by the absolutist presumptions of the Congress. The adjective used by you means hat you consider that the legislative branch is no longer part of the government. Do ou not fear that the Congress might question you on that?

Paz Barnica] I have no fear at all because I never said what you have just mentioned. said that the president of Congress was acting in an absolutist manner for personal otives. The crisis has its origin in personal ambitions which acquire a juridical haracter if transferred to the powers of state. It has an institutional origin, and I eiterate that it is a matter of personal, partisan, and sectarian ambition, which hould not exist in a country that needs the unity of every citizen and sector of the ation; that needs the dialogue as the instrument and requires that law prevail over orce. I was referring to the president of Congress, because I have observed it, and I ven told him 3 days ago to meditate over what he was doing.

while ago, quoting Shakespeare in a passage from Hamlet, I said that there is nothing ore misguiding to our internal conduct and our moral behavior than to keep telling a erson at home, in society, in his public functions: You will rule; you will rule.

I also remember that some months ago, I heard on the radio and, in fact, saw on the Today television program, a small gathering in a community of Santa Barbara, in which lawyer Bu Giron, addressing the peasants, said: I would like to be King Midas, so that everything I touch would turn to gold. Then I asked myself: Is that perhaps one way of wanting to solve the economic and social problems of Honduras; to become King Midas to distribute the gold to all corners of the country? I also asked myself: Does my friend Efrain Bu Giron really know who King Midas was? King Midas was a legendary ruler, famous for his wealth. On one occasion, he acted as judge in a musical contest between Apollo, who played the lyre, and Pan, who played the flute. King Midas awarded the prize to Pan. In revenge, Apollo ordered his ears cut off and replaced with donkey ears, and granted him the power, it was said, that everything he touched would turn to gold. But even the food he touched turned to gold, and he starved to death.

[Leiva] We inferred that the absolutist presumptions included at least the 53 deputies because you did not specify them at that time. You mentioned personal absolutist presumptions, but did not specify. Besides, remember that lawyer Bu Giron, as the facts seem to indicate, has the support of the 53 deputies who had charges levied against them today. Don't you think that an accusation of this type against the president of the legislative branch involves all those deputies who support him?

[Paz Barnica] I only referred to the president of the Congress. Now, if you want, I could also refer to that alliance existing between a Liberal minority and a Nationalist majority, because neither the defense of the interests of the nation nor the promotion and consolidation of a democratic system prevail there. The interests prevailing there are of a personal nature. I believe that alliances formed in a constitutional democracy are beneficial. But compromises void of ideals only show unrestrained opportunism.

[Pineda Ponce] I would like to underline the concept that the alliance of lawyer Efrain Bu Giron with the 30 deputies of the Nationalist bloc only reflects small interests of both parties. It would have been good to have those alliances analyze other important situations that were strongly opposed in previous congresses, even though the issues involved were of national interest. Seen from a political partisan view, it will be quite important for lawyer Bu Giron to wait and see if, favored with a candidacy, those 30 deputies will still support him in his campaign for the presidency of the Republic.

[Journalist Francisco Valeriano Giron] It has been said here that the crisis affecting the country is essentially political, and therefore, it requires a political solution. I will ask two questions. What possibilitеis are there for the two main leaders of the Liberal Party, who now oppose each other, to enter into a frank dialogue? I know it seems difficult due to the radicalization of the two that is evident in their various appearances on radio and television. That would be my first question. The second is that a few hours ago, the Liberal Party Executive Council issued a statement indicating that elements alien to the party were involved in this conflict. So, if possible, I would like to know the names of these persons.

[Pineda Ponce] It would be important if the two figures of highest importance in the administration of the country could meet. The final decision and responsibility is undoubtedly theirs. What we do know, because we all heard it, is that the constitutional president of the Republic has invited the president of Congress to meet with him more than once.

There could be some doubts as to the previous invitations, but there is none in relation to the telephone invitation he issued to Congress to participate in the welcoming ceremony for the president of Colombia, where, they probably could have greeted each other as they have done often on similar occasions.

As to the concern over the statement of the Executive Council of the party, the investigation of who those persons are depends on the diligence of the members of the press. There is no doubt that they exist, and this situation -- which was apparently judicial, but was essentially political -- originated through the intervention of at least one citizen who is not a Liberal, and who is known to have been militant in other political organizations.

[Paz Barnica] The fact that persons alien to the Liberal Party are participating is elemental. The deputies of the National Party mentioned by Noel Leiva are the ones profiting from this crisis at the expense of the Liberal Party minority bloc in Congress.

As to the dialogue, I believe that a national dialogue of all sectors is a fundamental requirement for moving the country forward. Now, I do not see much possibility for a personal dialogue between President Suazo and the president of Congress, Bu Giron. Not because of President Suazo who, even in his message to the nation 2 or 3 days ago, on 28 March, talked of a dialogue as the mechanism for negotiation and understanding. He has called lawyer Bu Giron to talk several times, as confirmed by Prof Pineda Ponce, but Bu Giron always refused, even spoke in a disrespectful tone to the leader of the nation. I do not believe Dr Suazo Cordova would be willing to talk with a person who has offended him so much. This is a real display of ungratefulness, as Dr Suazo brought him out of political anonimity. That I know personally, and lawyer Bu Giron, who is listening, knows it very well.

[Freddy Cuevas of AP] I have several short, simple questions. Gentlemen, why is it that for more than 2 years the country has shown a deep division in almost all of its sectors? Why do we have two Supreme Courts, two directorates for the National and Liberal parties, two conventions, and so forth. To what do you atrribute the fact that there is such strong opposition to the government? Why do the three presidential designates oppose Suazo Cordova, same as ALIPO, Codeco [expansion unknown], and political parties? Is it possible that all of these groups are enemies of the president? Or does this panorama respond to a conspiracy? Do they have legitimate grounds for such a stance?

[Arriaga] I will gladly answer Freddy Cuevas' question. Those are six questions that all Hondurans have asked, both from the public and private sector, journalists, intellectuals, and politicians. Everyone has asked these questions.

The other day, I said that this country has not had democracy for very long. This country has had antidemocracy for most of the century. There have been two or three democratic periods that were as summer sparrows. This has been this country's experience. All through our history of independence, our struggle for power has been a personal, ambitious struggle. The same thing is happening now. For this reason, some divisions have occurred in some sectors that you mentioned, such as professors, students, etc. There is also a struggle for power in those sectors, although it is very difficult. Those who struggle for power in these institutions do not care to strike up the necessary alliances for holding that power. And he who holds it also puts forth his best effort to keep it. This is a disorderly people, which lacks a democratic conscience.

During another press conference a short while ago, we said that these people have had no democratic experience.

We speak about democracy, but we have really had no chance to practice it [words indistinct]. We have practiced other types of systems. To be a democrat implies some relinquishing of personal interest and ambitions. This is what democracy implies.

But this country's history has shown otherwise. Perhaps [words indistinct]. The truth is that the struggle for power among us is the story of personal ambitions, of scheming, tricks, coups, and a whole series of practices entirely alien to a democratic system. Hence, we are experts in the other system, that of dictatorships, and we sometimes take tragic steps. Ours has been a story of coups, de facto governments, and corruption. Some Honduran sectors have become used to this system. We are more adept at destabilizing a democratic government than at offering a feasible solution and proposal for a democratic system. There is a destabilization plan going on here. Those who worked on it are able, experienced, and trained. These intelligent people are experts at destabilizing democracy in this country.

On the other hand, we don't see this ability when it comes to establishing a democratic system and we sometimes get entangled in very simple matters. We appear to (?ignore) the fact that the parliamentary system and the presidential system are both democratic. In a parliamentary system [words indistinct] can anytime censure the prime minister and put an end to executive power with its [words indistinct]. This parliamentary system rarely replaces members of the Supreme Court. [Words indistinct] replaces executive power.

In addition, when the idea is considered that the constitutional democracy theory [words indistinct] a balanced system and an independence of powers. Suddenly, we see that one power can remove another. This is democracy from the doctrinal, practical, and theoretical viewpoint. After all, the president could at any time replace the deputies or the Supreme Court could replace the executive branch. This is one of the most basic things in the democratic system. This is one of the simplest, yet we cannot practice it. This is why we said that no democratic conscience has been formed in this country. We have rather a sort of conditioned reflex toward [word indistinct]. We are willing to participate in it and every time there are special [word indistinct] over radio and television, we imagine we are already accustomed to having it come [word indistinct]. This is typical of a conditioned reflex.

This is what is done in laboratory experiments. But we have not formed any democratic conditioned reflexes because we have not experienced this democratic system all during this time. We have not learned it and we have not formed democratic habits. In this we are now entangled. An old story has continued to prevail in the consciences of Hondurans about the regimes that are above law and men who are not used to functioning in a judicial framework. This is the basis for the legal, constitutional, and democratic system that should prevail in all of Latin America at this time.

It will be very difficult to set up this system in this country. [Words indistinct] We have not developed this understanding and this conscience. This is my explanation for the question asked by Companero Freddy Cuevas.

[Domingo Flores of the Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network] I want to address myself to you, Professor Pineda Ponce. According to what we have heard tonight, if there is no reconciliation or dialogue, this means that the Liberal Party will definitely have to accept two conventions, that of Comayagua and that of Tegucigalpa. Can you give us an explanation, since of the three participants, you are a member of the Rodist Liberal Movement.

[Pineda Ponce] I have to admit that I am not a lawyer, but a schoolteacher. I know how much two plus two is and things like that. But we learn through experience. I cling strictly to the law.

According to the law, there cannot be two councils, two conventions, two courts, two congresses, or two presidents. This is against law. Now, specifically, to answer your question: The special national convention to meet in Comayagua, to which you are cordially invited, on 13 and 14 April is the only genuine convention according to the Liberal Party statutes and this in turn in agreement with the electoral and political parties law, and the Rodist Liberal Movement statutes approved by a special meeting held in La Esperanza on 5 March 1983. Its statutes and decisions are mandatory for its members. These statutes stipulate that the movement's national assembly will nominate its official candidate for the presidency, who will run against the ALIPO candidate at the party's national convention. As a result, during the convention to be held on 13 and 14 April -- provided ALIPO appears -- there will be a contest between those two official candidates. There cannot be any other candidates.

[Vilma Gloria Rosales from TIEMPO] My question is this: Considering that Suazo Cordova is the president of the Republic and at the same time coordinator general of the Rodist Liberal Movement, which is a faction of the Liberal Party, isn't there a conflict of interest when he, as coordinator, tries to impose his candidate and the interests of the Rodist minority on the entire Honduran nation? I would like Pineda Ponce to answer this question.

[Pineda Ponce] Your concern is a valid, although your question contains very personal elements. The central directorate of the Rodist Liberal Movement has nine members. The fact that the president is also the coordinator has been frequently questioned, as if his being president should deprive him as a citizen of the right to participate in political activities of his own party. There is no imposition of candidates by the president. The special meeting held in La Paz on 15 February 1985 was attended by more than 150 delegates from all over the country. All the formalities provided for in the statutes were observed when the decision was made. The problem lies in the fact that those who have personal interests can hardly obey this decision. To mention a name, I would like to ask: If Jose Azcona del Hoyo had been nominated as candidate in this meeting, would he be protesting? I think not. He would be very happy to be the official candidate of the Rodist Liberal Movement, which is not, Vilma Gloria, a minority within the Liberal Party. This is an immense and respectable majority amalgamated around its statutes and leaders in the country. It will achieve victory for the Honduran people soon.

[Mario Calix of EL HERALDO] I congratulate Arriaga for his explanation of democracy. Democracy implies relinquishing personal ambitions in this blind alley entered into by the confrontation of three powers. Apparently, everything comes from the irregular Liberal Party internal elections from whence candidates for president emerge. You have reported that the legal measures have already been applied, namely, the indictment of the National Congress deputies. Will a political solution lie in the Liberal Party's convoking internal elections? I don't think so because the convention has already been scheduled. What, then, would be the political solution, aside from expelling the deputies from the party?

[Arriaga] Look, we go back to the former situation of the participation of candidates in the struggle for power. Professor Ponce said that if someone else at some other time had won, the situation would be very different.

The situation would also be different if the coordinator were different. The truth is that we must solve an immediate problem. Difficult situations accumulated after decisions were made. Some of them knocked down one another. For this reason, strong and intense crises have occurred. Had the situation taken longer to erupt, it would have been resolved. Hence, the elections to be held during the April convention could be the solution [words indistinct]. This is another of the crises of democracy and majority rule is the only solution.

But an alternative has been raised as a possible solution, namely an amendment to the electoral law. This in turn would entail an amendment to the political parties statutes. This procedure has been proposed to solve this problem from the viewpoint of personal ambitions. This is only natural. Everyone in this country is entitled to run for president or a seat on the bench. This is everyone's right. Elections would solve this type of problem. But, will an amendment resolve this situation? If this amendment should be promulgated, would it be retroactive? Is there enough time for a general mobilization of four political parties in a single day when the convention is to be held in less than 24 [figure as heard] days? Would all this be possible, along with the enormous amount of human energy and money required? [Words indistinct] aimed at achieving a concilation and unity in this country. We have to ask whether such an amendment would solve the problem. Would all political parties agree on this amendment at this particular time? Everyone wishes that the amendment had some significance. Perhaps this would solve the practical aspects of the struggle among the parties. Such measures have so far favored personal interests and ambitions, which are again overshadowing this measure of the amendment of the statutes. I myself am not sure whether the problem could be solved this way when there are less than 15 days left before the Liberal Party convention in Comayagua.

[Guillermo Castellanos of Radio America] I will try to be as brief as possible in my questions. Professor Pineda, it has been said that the position of Liberal Party coordinator has been questioned as being nonexistent in the Liberal legislation. We don't know whether this is true. But what we want to know is this: Would the president be willing to renounce this position for the sake of a national understanding? When you speak of a legal dialogue, we also understand that we should plant our feet on the ground rather than fly through the air. Mr Arriaga, do you think that the problem can be solved simply by imprisoning the 53 deputies and the justices elected by the congress? This has already been asked. But what would be the international effect of such an action by the government? Mr Paz Barnica, I would like to tell you that the dialogue should not be held with Bu Giron alone, but should include all involved parties -- not only the Liberal Party members but also those outside. Don't you agree, Mr Foreign Secretary?

[Paz Barnica] I did not say the dialogue should be held with Bu Giron because that would not make sense. I spoke of a national dialogue, and President Suazo in this message of 28 March also spoke of a national dialogue. A dialogue among all sectors of the country is fundamental to strengthening constitutional democracy. This is fundamental. The Constitution has been violated by personal interests. For this reason, let's not make any more mistakes.

I will give you a good example. As a journalist and politician, you should take this into consideration. Two new and small parties -- the Christian Democratic Party and the Innovation and Unity Party -- which are critical of and opposed to the government, either abstained or voted against the National Congress action. This must be publicly acknowledged, as I am doing this evening.

I believe that in any conflict of powers there is a direct conflict among people. This is easy to see in history. You are [words indistinct], as my dear friend Efrain Bu [words indistinct].

Look at the record. This is not the first time that there has been a conflict of powers because of conflictive personal interests, although there have been different degrees of conflict.

When Manuel Godia of the National Party was president, Policarpo Dominguez, of the Liberal Party, was president of Congress. There was a conflict of powers: two different parties controlled two different state branches. Manuel resolved the situation in an easy, but arbirary, way: He ordered the dissolution of Congress, arrested Policarpo and the liberal deputies and...

[Unidentified speaker interrupting, question indistinct]

[Paz Barnica] Let us give another example. Dr Vicente Mejia Colindres of the Liberal Party was president and Tiburcio Carias Sandino of the National Party was president of Congress. Two different parties. From Congress, Carias forced the illustrious Honduran intellectual Vicente Mejia Colindres to have the appointment of consuls and diplomats approved by Congress when it is a fact that in Honduras there was a presidential system, not a parliamentary one. Another example: Villeda Morales, a Liberal, was president of the Republic; Modesto Rodas Alvarado, a Liberal, was president of Congress. Both were of the same party. Modesto Rodas Alvarado controlled the Liberal majority in Congress, and aside from legitimate personal interests, he was a true and authentic leader of the Liberal Party. Because of this, Rodas Alvarado always supported all those decisions intended to strengthen and uphold democracy and the Constitution in the country. We come to the present situation. Suazo Cordova, a Liberal, president of the Republic; Efrain Bu Giron, a Liberal, president of Congress by the grace of President Suazo Cordova as political leader. However, unlike the cases I mentioned -- Villeda Morales and Rodas Alvarado, of the same party -- in the present case, with a similar situation -- the opposite takes place. But Efrain Bu Giron, and I regret to say it because of the friendship between us, is lending himself, either naively or awkwardly, to destroying the constitutional democracy.

Mr Ubodoro Arriaga has described that difficult path -- and to speak of difficult paths at the beginning of the Holy Week must be significant -- followed by the Honduran people and its democratic institutions. The Honduran people can and want to live in democracy. The political leaders, for personal reasons, are trying to destroy democracy because they want to monopolize it to benefit their own selfish interests.

In the past 50 years, no government freely elected by the people has completed its constitutional term. Tiburcio Carias Sandino was elected freely by the people, but did not complete his constitutional term because he prescribed for himself a term of 16 years and assumed the role of dictator. Another example was Dr Juan Manuel Galvez. Even though he headed a good government and initiated a stage of internal reconciliation among Hondurans, he was not freely elected by the people because Dr (Angel Villa Huete) was not allowed to participate as opposition leader and had to go back to exile in Mexico from Tegucigalpa. Villeda Morales was freely elected by the people, but was deposed. Lopex Arellano was not freely elected by the people because he rose to power through a coup d'etat, and Dr Ramon Ernesto Cruz, who was freely elected, was also deposed. So, it is basic that we interest ourselves in maintaining democracy in this country. It has its defects, which must be corrected. It is not perfect, but we must try to improve it. The important thing is to learn to coexist in democracy, because democracy is the basis of social and economic development, which, in turn, is the basis of internal and external peace.

To conclude this answer, which will be the last for me, I would like to say that we must learn from history, all the good and bad experiences, in order to obtain knowledge that will benefit the present and build a better future.

Learn the reality; otherwise, some Hondurans might experience the same thing that happened to Thales of Miletus, one of the seven Greek philosophers in a port on the Aegean Sea. One day, he lodged in the house of a good woman, to whom he talked about the moon and the stars, but the poor woman did not understand anything. Then, he took her by the arm for walk the street so that she could see the sky and better understand what he was talking about. But since it was night and dark, Thales of Miletus fell into a ditch, and while the woman helped him out, she told him: You know everything about that which is in the sky; but you know nothing of that which is under your feet on earth. In other words, one must keep his feet on the ground.

I would also like to pay tribute today to one of the most illustrious Hondurans, who should have been president of Honduras. I refer to Jorge Bueso Arias. Sometimes we talk and I feel good about his way of thinking and his patriotism. Some 4 or 6 weeks ago, he told me: Edgardo, we must take care of this government. I criticize it because I disagree with many of its actions, but we must protect it because it is our party, it means democracy, and it represents the majority of the Honduran people.

Going back in history, he referred to the evolution of Honduras in the past few years through the leadership of the Liberal and National Parties. He talked of Dr Juan Manuel Galvez with his regime of understanding; of Villeda Morales, who became a great popular leader who promoted social reforms and created a social infrastructure -- such as the social security, the agrarian reform, etc. -- which prevented more serious conflicts in Honduras. Then came Rodas Alvarado, who was great leader in the country. After his death, Roberto Suazo Cordova picked up the banner as a great Liberal leader, and the people elected him. Some one asked if he would resign. Some have said that the president should resign. I would suggest that these persons ask for permission to speak to him. I am sure he will receive them. Then will they have the moral courage to ask him to resign? Thank you.

[Pineda Ponce] I will take the opportunity to discuss the issue of Castellanos. In truth, the post of coordinator of the Liberal Party does not exist in the statutes. But, in the absence of the convention and the statutes, the Central Executive Council can announce such a decision through a decree and assign this and other responsibilities. This is what happened at the Central Executive Council resided over by Romualdo Bueso Penalba and Pompilio Romero Martinez. It was then that they issued the decree appointing Dr Suazo as party coordinator, in recognition of his ability. He acts as coordinator general of the Rodist Liberal Movement. This appears in the statutes. He was elected for this during the special convention at Valle de Angel. We are now near the end of this conference, and I want to join Paz Barnica in publicly recognizing the civic and legal behavior of the Christian Democratic representatives and the PINU by not participating in violating the Constitution that they swore to uphold, as did the deputies that joined together to create this situation. The Honduran Armed Forces also deserve recognition, despite the irresponsible appeals by Hondurans who do not want to live in democracy because they became accustomed to the dictatorship. For these people, peace is absolute silence, no matter if it is that of a graveyard or that of a prison. They do not understand a fertile and creative peace, a peace expressed through dialogue discussion, and free analysis. The Armed Forces have elegantly asserted their support for the Constitution and the constitutional government because they know that the people are the only genuine source of power and the Armed Forces love their people because they come from the people. We offer our respect for the Honduran Armed Forces for this elegant and patrictic position.

[Arriaga] [Words indistinct] the companero who asked a question, Guillermo Castellanos. He asked whether the trial of the deputies would reactivate the problem. The problem occurred and this is the final moment. Why didn't the deputies see that by dismissing the justices a chain of events would be initiated? There lies the problem. The others are of a secondary nature and are the consequence of the main problem. Now, why did they do this, if they knew that a difficult and critical situation would occur? Why, if this would endanger the peace and tranquillity of this country, did this action take place? All the other events are the result of the first mistake, and those who unleashed this situation are to be blamed. There is a popular record around that says we know how things begin but not how they end. We are seeing this in practice.

I want to thank you all for your presence and for your questions. These questions have been sufficiently clear and open aimed at finding a solution to this situation that has worried the Honduran people so much. You people control public communications and I know that the questions that you have asked are aimed at finding a solution to the problems that concern the whole nation. We believe that this will have positive results and that the homeland will be benefited. We also hope that when you write about what has happened here you will stick to the truth. It is one of the things that can save us, but by distorting the truth the situation can become more troubled and aggravated. A headline that does not reflect what has been said here can have negative results. We thank the Honduran people for having listened to us. Let the people think about what has been said here. Our only purpose has been to solve the problems created by personal interests, as it has been clearly expressed here. Thank you for your presence here. Greetings to the Honduran people.

Bu Giron Remark Denied

PA031410 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Statement issued by the Information and Press Secretariat of the Presidency in Tegucigalpa on 2 April]

[Text] The Information and Press Secretariat of the Honduran Presidency categorically denies the tendentious, reckless, and slanderous remarks made by Efrain Bu Giron, president of the legislative branch, in the National Congress. He stated that Marco Antonio Lanza, Judge of the First Criminal Court of Francisco Morazan, visited the presidential house on Monday. We report that Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of the Republic, has been in his residence in La Paz since Saturday and taking advantage of the commemoration of Holy Week, he is in spiritual retreat as should be the norm for all good Christians. We alert the people in general so that they will not be surprised by false and tendentious remarks whose sole objective is to justify actions outside the Constitution and the laws of the Republic.

Tegucigalpa, 2 April

Congress Blames Presidency

PA031340 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1215 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Statement issued by the National Congress in Tegucigalpa on 2 April]

[Text] In view of the recent events, unduly described by some as a confrontation between the legislative and judicial branches, and by others as the result of personal differences between certain deputies and the judicial branch, the National Congress informs the national and international public of the following:

1. In view of the evident corruption in the justice administration as stated in the report of the investigative commission appointed by the state's first power and in the face of the agonizing call issued by the Honduran people, made up of sectors such as the Catholic Church, labor, peasant, business, and professional organizations, and private individuals, the National Congress of the Republic, using its constitutional powers, proceed to partially reorganize the Supreme Court of Justice.

In their obsessive effort to remain in their posts and continue the existing corruption, the dismissed justices gave instructions to the judge of the First Criminal Court of this department to begin criminal proceedings against the Supreme Court justices who were to go to the Supreme Court building on 30 March because they had been elected and duly sworn in by the National Congress. As a result of this process, lawyer Ramon Valladares Soto, the new president of the Supreme Court, was arrested by agents of the Department of National Investigation on 29 March and his fellow justices, it has been reported, are about to be arrested.

The attack on and abuse committed against the president of the Supreme Court and which may be extended to his fellow justices is an offense against the legislative branch because an attempt is being made to violate and ignore one of its resolutions. This is being done by the former Supreme Court justices and the executive branch which, through its highest official, the president of the Republic, on a national radio and television network on 29 March stated the following: Today, the National Congress, in an action promoted by certain deputies who place personal interests before national interests, ostensibly violated the Constitution of the Republic when it dismissed the Supreme Court justices elected by the legislative branch for a 4-year constitutional term. He then added: In view of this constitutional violation, the supplantation of the people's sovereignty, and the usurpation of powers committed by deputies who view with scorn the people who elected them with sacrifices and hope, I have to exercise the necessary constitutional powers to comply with and enforce the Constitution, run the state's general policy, keep the independence and honor of the Republic unharmed, and maintain the peace and security of Honduras.

3. [As heard] The paragraphs just cited clearly show the attitude of the president of the Republic who, ignoring his strictly constitutional duties, is arbitrarily invading the functions which only concern the Congress and with de facto measures, abuses public force to make legislative branch resolutions invalid.

4. In accordance with Article 245 of the Constitution of the Republic, the president is in charge of the general administration of the state and his main duty is to comply with and enforce the Constitution, the treaties and conventions, laws, and other legal decisions. His 10th function is to give the legislative branch, the judicial branch, and the National Elections Court the help and power needed to make their resolutions effective. In accordance with Article 245 of the Constitution of the Republic and as a result of what it states, the president of the Republic must act responsibly seeking the welfare of the Honduran people without becoming an arrogant factor to the tranquillity of Hondurans. If he acts in this way, history will show him as a respectful leader, otherwise history will judge him implacably.

6. [As heard] In conclusion, the National Congress declares emphatically that it condemns the abuse against Valladares Soto and his fellow justices carried out by the executive branch in connivance with former Supreme Court justices. It makes the executive branch responsible for any abuses that may befall the members of Congress.

Bu Giron Willing To Meet Suazo

PA031408 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1255 GMT 3 Apr 85

[Report by Francisco Medina Arguenal]

[Text] The commission made up of businessmen, unionists, and peasants has obtained its first results.

The members of this commission met with Congress President Jose Efrain Bu Giron last night. At noon yesterday, they had asked the president of the Republic and the president of the National Congress to meet with them. In this first meeting, they heard the position of the president of the Congress who has agreed to talk with the president. However, the president has not yet responded whether he will meet with Bu Giron or not. The members of this commission are waiting for the answer from the president who is in La Paz. In addition, it was confirmed that at noon, this commission will determine its position after they analyze the results of their efforts to get the presidents of the two branches in conflict to meet.

Let's hear Felicito Avila Ordonez, secretary general of the General Central Organization of Workers, CGT, who will tell us about his meeting with Bu Giron last night.

[Begin recording] [Avila Ordonez] We went to the Congress building at about 1700 yesterday where the president of Congress received the commission made up of the CTH, the CGT, and the COHEP. We discussed with him the various concerns we have and formula that may lead to the solutions the people want.

Among the things the president of the Congress told us was that he agrees to seek a solution for this problem and that he sees no problem in attending a meeting set by the sponsors, we may say, of this meeting. We are still waiting for a reply from the executive branch. We talked with the secretary of the presidency this morning. He told us about some of his concerns. However, we continue to wait. The commission authorized by the CGT, CTH and the COHEP, will meet at 1400 today. We will discuss the results obtained and will determine the position of the commission made up of the private sector and the working class in the face of these events. With a patriotic attitude and moved by a national interest to find a solution, we will set the position of the commission we formed.

[Reporter] Did Bu Giron tell you that he is willing to talk with President Suazo Cordova?

[Avila Ordonez] We cannot deny what the president of the Congress said. It is true. He said that he is willing to talk with the president. In fact, he told us to talk with the president and then I will be willing to talk. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

PLI LEADER SAYS STATUTES GIVE ORTEGA MORE POWER

PA271712 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 85 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Virgilio Godoy Reyes, president of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] and leader of his group within the legislative branch, told the media that the aim of the Sandinist majority at the Assembly following the approval of the internal statutes was to concentrate the largest share of power within the offices of the chief of the executive branch and the president of the Assembly.

After reading the first draft of this bill, prepared by agroup of legal advisers, we observed that the president imposed these two goals on the Assembly and in the end they were realized, Godoy Reyes added.

The first draft served as a basis for the Justice Commission, controlled by the FSLN, to prepare a bill which was almost an exact copy of the first draft.

The bill issued by the Justice Commission, thanks to the FSLN steamroller, was submitted to a special commission, also controlled by the FSLN. That commission added certain changes to the bill, making it worse and guaranteeing that the largest share of power would go to the chief of the executive branch and the president of the Assembly.

Godoy said: "As I see it, the government bill was approved for specific reasons. To begin with, the government majority in the Assembly had two intentions in depriving the legislative branch of its duty as a constituent assembly: 1) to put a straitjacket on the Assembly by preventing it from carrying out its legislative duty, as a constituent assembly, to establish the organization and principles of the state without any prior limitations; and 2) to prevent the risk that the Assembly might decide to announce general elections based on the new organization and principles once the constitution is approved."

"This new maneuver was but one way to guarantee immobility [inmovilidad] to the head of the executive branch. [sentence as published] Based on this initial decision, others will follow during a month of discussions. In this bill the government majority also imposed the approval of rules that completely favor the executive branch and boldly imply a basic decrease in the legislative powers of the assembly."

In fact, Godoy added, it will now have fewer responsibilities than those given to the defunct State Council. Therefore, it is no exaggeration to say that now the National Assembly is a larger council of state as far as the number of members is concerned, but a smaller one as far as its legislative capacity.

UNAG LEADER CLAIMS CONTRAS MURDERING FARMERS

PA281403 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Approximately 190 small- and medium-sized farmers in northern Nicaragua were murdered in the last 2 and 1/ years by CIA mercenaries for the simple "crime" of making land produce as private individuals or members of cooperatives, Wilberto Lara, National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen [UNAG], leader, told BARRICADA yesterday.

UNAG drew up a list of crimes committed by the mercenaries to demonstrate that, rather than military targets, the mercenaries seek to damage the economic sector and to selectively annihilate those who go out of their way to make land produce.

The figures also indicate that 23 producers were kidnapped and 18 seriously wounded in ambushes by the mercenaries, who avoid fighting but murder civilians. Terrorist acts against producers during the same period resulted in property losses of almost 48 million cordobas. The UNAG list covers 231 people, that is, only those cases for which it could obtain information regarding the dates and names of farms, municipalities, and departments where the attacks occurred. However, real figures surely exceed these preliminary estimates by far, Lara noted.

Why have these 190 farmers been murdered? Because Reagan wants us to stop producing in order to economically isolate the revolution, Lara answered.

CASTRO GREETS LAO COUNTERPART KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN

BK271423 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 25 Mar 85

[22 March greetings message from Fidel Castro, first secretary of Central Committee of Communist Party of Cuba, to Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee]

[Text] On the occasion of the 30th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] I would like to extend warm fraternal congratulations and tribute to you and to other comrade leaders, party cadres and combatants, and all the Lao people.

Over the past 30 years, under the resolute and talented leadership of the party, the Lao people have recorded the victories of their struggle on numerous pages of history, thus turning the Lao revolution into a fortress for the ideals of peace, independence, and socialism. On the long road, the Lao party and people have provided rich lessons to the revolutionaries of the world by combining all forms of struggle, in correctly applying proletarian internationalism, and especially in maintaining their militant solidarity with the fraternal Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples.

Seeing the progress the Lao people have made in fulfilling their current tasks, by building and defending their beloved country, our party and people are very happy. On this occasion of profound significance, I would like to reaffirm our firm support to the correct policy of the LPRP, aimed at maintaining peace, stability, cooperation, and mutual interests with all countries in the world. Once again, I wish to extend my congratulations to you and wish you good health and new victories in fulfilling your esteemed tasks.

CASTRO RECEIVES ARGENTINE, CONGOLESE GROUPS

Meets Argentine Communists

FL301216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, yesterday received a delegation of the Argentine Communist Party headed by its secretary general, Athos Fava. The meeting took place in a fraternal environment. Cuban and Argentine party leaders participated in the meeting.

Meeting With Congolese Delegation

FL011448 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with a delegation from the Congo, led by Minister of Forestry Henri Djombo, on Thursday, 28 March. During the meeting they discussed various aspects of cooperation between the two countries, the international situation, and other matters of mutual interest. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere which characterizes relations between the two countries.

VILMA ESPIN CALLS FOR BROAD FRONT FOR PEACE

FL282106 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Excerpts] At the conference of leaders of women's organiztions from socialist countries, Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], has called for forming a broad front whose unity in action would be based on the common interest of achieving peace and the right of all countries to develop. Espin, who is also vice president of the Women's International Democratic Federation, said that as the final conference in Nairobi, Kenya, approaches, ideological confrontation has increased and become more serious thus requiring the socialist states and members of the Group of 77 to close their ranks.

She said that the Copenhagen conference's rule, which recognizes each nation's right to vote, should be continued in Nairobi. Espin added that the FMC had researched the situation of working women worldwide as a contribution of the Nonaligned Movement to the conference.

The conference of leaders of women's organizations from socialist countries will close tomorrow, Friday.

Meets FMC Members in Moscow

FL021626 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Vilma Espin, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba and FMC President, met today with more than 300 FMC members who live in Moscow. The FMC president reported on the organization's congresses and especially the significance of the fourth FMC congress held in March.

Vilma emphasized Cuban women's participation in the economic, political, and social life of the country. She told the FMC members in the USSR that the fourth congress had been a success, and underscored the permanent and significant participation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in all of the congress sessions.

HART MEETS LEADERS DURING HUNGARIAN CONGRESS

Meeting With USSR's Romanov

FL271146 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] From Budapest, the beautiful Hungarian capital, it has been reported that Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has held a friendly meeting with Grigoriy Romanov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee. The heads of the Cuban and Soviet Workers Party noted the high level of relations between the two parties. According to reports, the Soviet leader asked Hart to convey a warm greeting to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Meets Nicaragua's Nunez

FL281750 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1131 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo, has held a fraternal meeting with Carlos Nunez Tellez, member of the FSLN National Directorate. The two leaders are heading the delegations of their respective countries to the 13th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Party. The Cuban minister of culture exchanged points of view with Nunez on matters of common interest. Hart also met with Pak Song-chol, member of the Politburo of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee, and (Maxime Grometz), member of the Secretariat of the French Communist Party.

DAM PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NICARAGUA

FL291906 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Las Candas Dam is being built outside Cuban territory, but very close to our feelings and internationalist hopes of cooperating with our brother countries. This dam will be able to hold 130 million cubic meters of water and will be able to supply water to 60 percent of the total available sugarcane growing areas of the Victoria de Julio agricultural industrial complex. It is being built in the Tipitapa-Malcatoya area of Nicaragua by workers and technicians of that country with the cooperation of Cuban workers and specialists. The dam was inaugurated in January with the presence of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

ban participation in the construction of Las Canoas in Nicaragua has been in design at fferent stages, in geological-engineering research, in designs against leakages, and advice during construction.

the next few months, the security grid at Las Canoas will be completed and the entire oject should be finished by year-end, with the dam becoming operational in the ter part.

ETNAM'S NGUYEN HUU THO MEETS FLAVIO BRAVO

011945 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 85

ext] This visit contributes to the development and growth of the friendship between e peoples of Cuba and Vietnam, Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Assembly of e Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has said.

avio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, welcomed e distinguished guest as he arrived in our country.

uyen Huu Tho said he wanted to visit Cuba in March 1975, but this was not possible cause the Ho Chi Minh drive had begun, ending with the 30 April revolutionary victory. ter stressing the unconditional support of the socialist community to his country's ruggle, he said he was visiting Cuba to see with his own eyes the successes of Jose rti's heroic land.

Official Talks Begin

021241 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Apr 85

ext] The presidents of the national assemblies of Cuba and Vietnam, Flavio Bravo and uyen Huu Tho, respectively, have held official talks in Havana. They discussed the ructure and functioning of their respective parliaments, the relations between the two untries, and the international situation. Xuan Thuy, vice chairman of the national sembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, participated in the talks.

e Vietnamese delegation began on Monday its visit to Cuba and will remain a week.

FORMATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH VIETNAM

290224 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 85

ext] With the presence of Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo and Secretariat member of e party Central Committee, a cooperation and mutual aid accord in the international formation field has been signed between the Cuban Communist Party and the Vietnamese mmunist Party.

e document was signed by Eladio Calvo Gonzalez, first deputy chief of the Department Revolutionary Orientation, and Do Phuons on behalf of the Secretariat of the etnamese Communist Party.

e accord stipulates an increase in exchanges between VNA news agency and its Cuban nterpart institutions and agencies, in accord with the identity in principles and e fraternal ties which unite the two fighting peoples against imperialism, and between e two parties and governments.

GRENADA

BLAIZE ON U.S., CARIBBEAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS

FL021520 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] American forces will begin a pull-out from Grenada as planned 1at this month. The prime minister, Herbert Blaize, says an international military contingent of troops may not leave until Grenada's police force can handle the island's security.

Some 250 U.S. military police and support personnel are scheduled to begin pulling out at the end of April and be completely withdrawn by the end of September, coinciding with the planned departure of about 350 Caribbean peace-keeping troops, mostly from Jamaica and Barbados. However, Prime Minister Blaize hints there could be a delay in withdrawing the Caribbean force. He says if a paramilitary force of 550 U.S.-trained police is not ready, the troops will not leave.

BLAIZE SAYS MULTI-NATION ARMY PLAN SHELVED

FL021812 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 30, CANA -- Seven Eastern Caribbean states which are signatories to a near three-year-old mutual defense pact have definitely shelved plans for the establishment of a standing army, Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said here. We are not going to have a standing army as some people were talking about, Blaize told reporters. Each of the states involved in the pact will instead have its own unit which would be put at the disposal of others in case there is need to protect this sub-region from external problems, he said. If anything happens anywhere we are a sort of bush-fire put-outers as the case may be, said Blaize, who only last month acceded to the treaty.

The other signatories to the pact, first initialled in 1982, are St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, St Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, Antigua-Barbuda and Barbados. It provides for cooperation in a wide range of areas including search and rescue operations, defense of regional democracy, and the protection of the islands against external and internal threats.

The joint security arrangement was prompted by alleged coup plots against the Governments of Barbados and Dominica and a massive arms build-up in Grenada under the then People's Revolutionary Government.

JAMAICA

LAY OFFS, JOB CUTS REPORTED IN PUBLIC SECTOR

FL282324 Bridgetown CANA in English 2259 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA -- The Jamaica Government is closing an agency set up a decade ago to handle the management of development projects in another move that will cost public sector jobs. Construction Minister Bruce Golding told Parliament that 37 jobs will go when the National Development Agency (NDA) is disbanded this month-end. Officials say the concept of the NDA from the outset conflicted with existing frameworks for handling public sector construction and the work of several agencies was duplicated. Last week about 150 people at a relocated old peoples home lost their job, and in the previous week, about 810 people were made redundant at the Banana Company of Jamaica and 305 at the Railway Corporation. This week Betta Transport, a city bus service operated by former employees of the government's bus company, announced that it will lay-off workers because of financial problems, and 100 jobs are expected to be lost. The Edward Seaga government had before the latest developments cut over 6,000 public sector jobs to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements for continued economic aid.

ECUADOR

GOVERNMENT MINISTER ON STRIKE, WAGE DISPUTE

PA302242 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The strike called by the United Workers Front, FUT, was staged amid relative calm and the police were able to control the situation and maintain public order according to Government Minister Luis Robles, who evaluated the 24-hour strike staged on Wednesday.

[Begin recording] I would rather not label this as either a success or a failure because such an assertion would be meaningless. Frankly, I feel that the country in general and workers in particular might be growing tired of this dispute that we have been engaging in as we try to solve the Ecuadoran workers' problem. Your question even brings something else to mind: We are all familiar with, and yesterday I commented on, the draft decree finally submitted by the Congress for consideration by the president. It was vetoed in its entirety. However, at this juncture, and from the government's standpoint, as we are firmly convinced that this stand is in accordance with constitutional provisions, the Ecuadoran worker does receive a salary. He may not have the ideal salary, or the one he thinks is ideal, but he has a salary of 8,500 sucres plus a compensation of 1,500 sucres, plus transportation allotment. He has something he has been demanding since 1 January, perhaps not at the level he wanted, but he has it. In fact, this leads to another point: What will the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees finally do when the time comes to resolve the request to suspend the salary put into effect by the president of the Republic? Will it try to take away from the Ecuadoran worker what it already has? Will the Ecuadoran worker continue to be both the object and the victim of this discrepancy over constitutional viewpoints? And not only over constitutional viewpoints, but also over constitutional procedures, as observed by the government. I do not know the answers, but these are the questions. [end recording]

VENEZUELA

LUSINCHI LEAVES ON 9-DAY VISIT TO U.S.

PA021727 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Caracas, 2 Apr (EFE) -- Venezuelan President Lusinchi left at 1528 GMT today on a 9-day visit to the United States.

Moments before boarding the flight that will take him to New York, the Venezuelan president made a brief statement on the purpose of his visit. He said that in view of the fact that Venezuela's economy is becoming stronger, he hoped that the persons with whom he will meet will understand our message.

Lusinchi will meet with the representatives of foreign industrialists to explore investment possibilities in the country and the possibility of exporting Venezuelan products. He said that he will meet with Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero on Latin American problems, the Central American situation, the problem of the foreign debt, the treatment of foreign investment in our countries, and restrictions placed on Latin American products in the United States. He said that Febres Cordero is in the United States on a state visit, but he will meet him in New York and it is simply a matter of getting together to talk, but that there is no set agenda.

Lusinchi also said that this coming Tuesday he will meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The Venezuelan president will return to Venezuela on 11 April.